THE UNBELIEVABLE GWENPOOL

HASTINGS
GURIHIRU
STRYCHALSKI
ROSENBERG

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HEAD OF M.O.D.O.K.

MARVEL

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WRITER
CHRISTOPHER HASTINGS

ISSUES #5-6
ARTIST: IRENE STRYCHALSKI
COLOR ARTIST: RACHELLE ROSENBERG
COVER ART: STACEY LEE

ISSUES #7-10
ARTIST: GURIHIRU
PROLOGUE ART: DANILO BEYRUTH & TAMRA BONVILLAIN
COVER ART: HELEN CHEN (#7), STACEY LEE (#8) & DAVID LOPEZ (#9-10)

LETTERER: VC's CLAYTON COWLES

ASSISTANT EDITOR: HEATHER ANTOS
EDITOR: JORDAN D. WHITE

COLLECTION EDITOR: JENNIFER GRÜNWALD
ASSISTANT EDITOR: CAITLIN O'CONNELL
ASSOCIATE MANAGING EDITOR: KATERI WOODY
EDITOR, SPECIAL PROJECTS: MARK D. BEAZLEY
VP PRODUCTION & SPECIAL PROJECTS: JEFF YOUNGQUIST
SVP PRINT, SALES & MARKETING: DAVID GABRIEL
BOOK DESIGNERS: JAY BOWEN & ADAM DEL RE

DIGITAL MANAGER/PRODUCTION: TIM SMITH 3
DIGITAL PRODUCTION: KOU CHEN & RACHEL YOUNG

EDITOR IN CHIEF: AXEL ALONSO
CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER: JOE QUESADA
PUBLISHER: DAN BUCKLEY
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: ALAN FINE

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THE UNBELIEVABLE GWENPOOL

GWEN POOLE HERE FOR THE RECAP!

LONG STORY SHORT? EVERYTHING SUCKS!

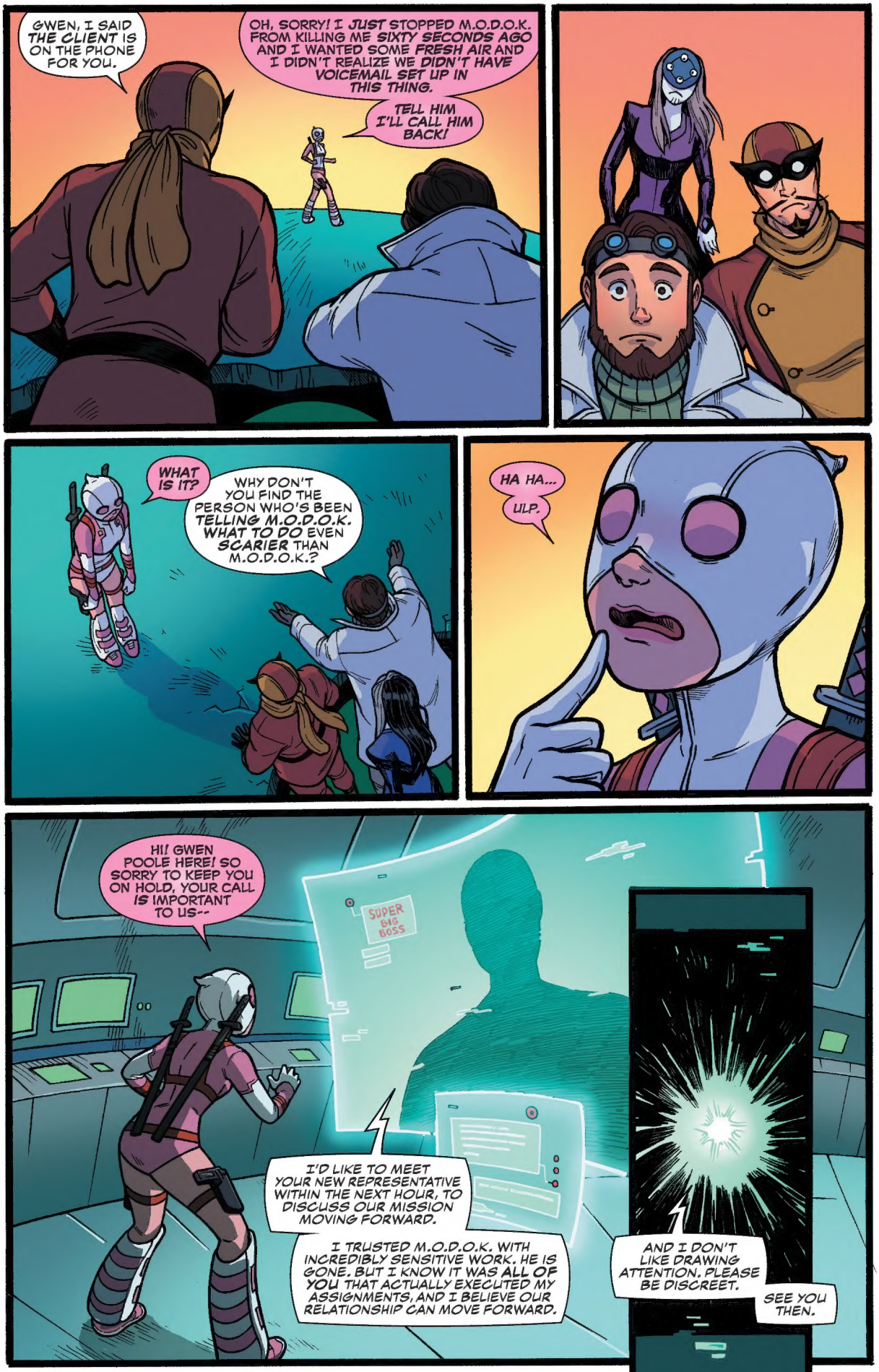
VINCE (THE DOOMBOT WHO FUNDED MY MERC ORGANIZATION M.O.D.O.K.) TRIED TO KILL ME (BUT FAILED). THE EVIL SQUID ALIENS TRIED TO KILL ME (BUT FAILED). OH, AND THE ENTIRETY OF THE NYPD IS AFTER ME AS WELL. AS FAR AS I KNOW THEY WANT ME ALIVE, THOUGH.

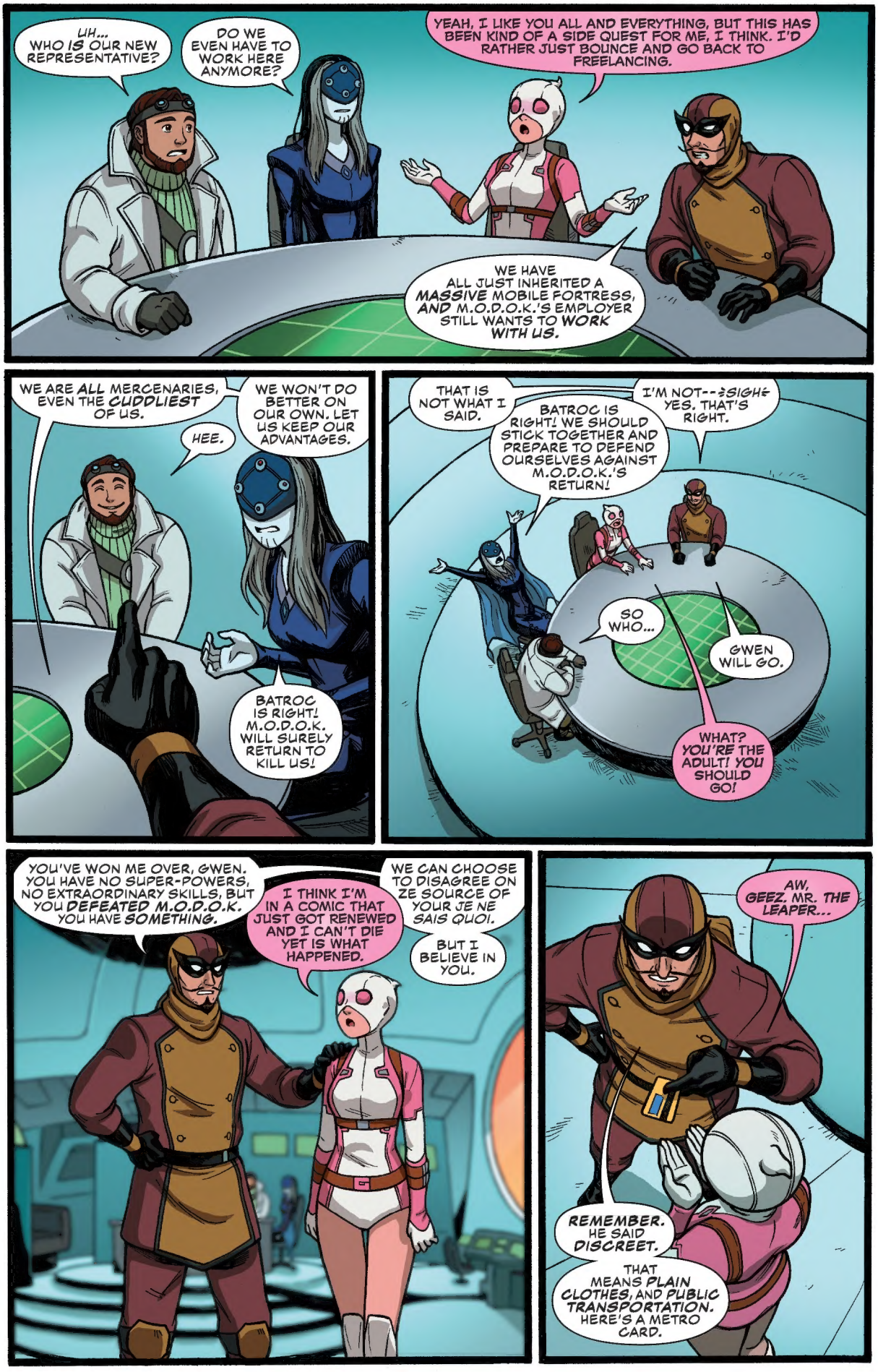
TO MAKE MATTERS EVEN WORSE, MY ENTIRE TEAM HAS *LEFT* ME TO GO ABOUT THEIR OWN CAREERS AS CRIMINALS AND GENERAL DELINQUENTS.

EVEN MY BEST GHOST-PAL, CECIL, ABANDONED ME TO GO SEE HIS FAMILY, OR WHATEVER.

SO, YEAH. LIFE IS A LOAD OF SUCKITUDE RIGHT NOW.

GOOD NEWS! I HAVE JUST *DEFINITELY PROVED* I AM THE HERO OF MY *VERY OWN COMIC BOOK.*
SEE, I KNOW THIS WORLD IS FICTIONAL. I'M FROM *THE REAL WORLD.*
DON'T ASK HOW I GOT HERE. I'M NOT IN THE MOOD TO TALK ABOUT IT. *EVER.*
ONCE I GOT HERE, I KNEW IN ORDER TO SURVIVE, I HAD TO BECOME A *"MAIN CHARACTER,"* WHICH MEANT *SUPER HERO,* WHICH MEANT GETTING THIS OUTFIT.
I'LL ADMIT, AFTER M.O.D.O.K. MURDERED MY FRIEND, CECIL, AND MADE ME HIS *HENCHMAN,* MY CONFIDENCE IN MY SUPER HERO THESIS WAS *SHAKEN.*
BUT CECIL'S *BACK,* AND I SENT M.O.D.O.K. *INTO SPACE!* IF RESURRECTING YOUR BUDDY AND SENDING YOUR NEMESIS INTO SPACE ISN'T A FRIGGIN' HERO'S JOURNEY, *I DON'T KNOW WHAT IS.*
NOW THAT *M.O.DORK'S* FLYING OUT TO KISS THE VOYAGER PROBE, ME AND THE *REST* OF THE CREW ARE *FREE.* LET ME INTRODUCE THEM:
THE TERRIBLE EYE--SOME KINDA WITCH.
BATROC THE LEAPER--GROSS FRENCH STEREOTYPE AND PUNCHING BAG TO CAPTAIN AMERICA.
MEGA TONY--SUPER-SCIENCE HEALER CUTIE!
ARE THEY LOOKING AT ME? THEY ARE, AREN'T THEY.


GWEN, I SAID THE CLIENT IS ON THE PHONE FOR YOU.
OH, SORRY! I JUST STOPPED M.O.D.O.K. FROM KILLING ME SIXTY SECONDS AGO AND I WANTED SOME FRESH AIR AND I DIDN'T REALIZE WE DIDN'T HAVE VOICEMAIL SET UP IN THIS THING.
TELL HIM I'LL CALL HIM BACK!
WHAT IS IT?
WHY DON'T YOU FIND THE PERSON WHO'S BEEN TELLING M.O.D.O.K. WHAT TO DO EVEN SCARIER THAN M.O.D.O.K.?
HA HA...
ULP.
HI! GWEN POOLE HERE! SO SORRY TO KEEP YOU ON HOLD, YOUR CALL IS IMPORTANT TO US--
SUPER BIG BOSS
I'D LIKE TO MEET YOUR NEW REPRESENTATIVE WITHIN THE NEXT HOUR, TO DISCUSS OUR MISSION MOVING FORWARD.
I TRUSTED M.O.D.O.K. WITH INCREDIBLY SENSITIVE WORK. HE IS GONE. BUT I KNOW IT WAS ALL OF YOU THAT ACTUALLY EXECUTED MY ASSIGNMENTS, AND I BELIEVE OUR RELATIONSHIP CAN MOVE FORWARD.
AND I DON'T LIKE DRAWING ATTENTION. PLEASE BE DISCREET.
SEE YOU THEN.


UH... WHO IS OUR NEW REPRESENTATIVE?
DO WE EVEN HAVE TO WORK HERE ANYMORE?
YEAH, I LIKE YOU ALL AND EVERYTHING, BUT THIS HAS BEEN KIND OF A SIDE QUEST FOR ME, I THINK. I'D RATHER JUST BOUNCE AND GO BACK TO FREELANCING.
WE HAVE ALL JUST INHERITED A MASSIVE MOBILE FORTRESS, AND M.O.D.O.K.'S EMPLOYER STILL WANTS TO WORK WITH US.
WE ARE ALL MERCENARIES, EVEN THE CUDDLIEST OF US.
WE WON'T DO BETTER ON OUR OWN. LET US KEEP OUR ADVANTAGES.
HEE.
BATROC IS RIGHT! M.O.D.O.K. WILL SURELY RETURN TO KILL US!
THAT IS NOT WHAT I SAID.
BATROC IS RIGHT! WE SHOULD STICK TOGETHER AND PREPARE TO DEFEND OURSELVES AGAINST M.O.D.O.K.'S RETURN!
I'M NOT--*SIGH* YES. THAT'S RIGHT.
SO WHO...
GWEN WILL GO.
WHAT? YOU'RE THE ADULT! YOU SHOULD GO!
YOU'VE WON ME OVER, GWEN. YOU HAVE NO SUPER-POWERS, NO EXTRAORDINARY SKILLS, BUT YOU DEFEATED M.O.D.O.K. YOU HAVE SOMETHING.
I THINK I'M IN A COMIC THAT JUST GOT RENEWED AND I CAN'T DIE YET IS WHAT HAPPENED.
WE CAN CHOOSE TO DISAGREE ON ZE SOURCE OF YOUR JE NE SAIS QUOI.
BUT I BELIEVE IN YOU.
AW, GEEZ. MR. THE LEAPER...
REMEMBER. HE SAID DISCREET.
THAT MEANS PLAIN CLOTHES, AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION. HERE'S A METRO CARD.

MAN, IT NEVER STOPS, HUH? SUPER-HEROING. BY THE WAY, THANKS FOR NOT USING YOUR GHOST POWERS TO WATCH ME CHANGE. THAT'S A SOLID GHOST MOVE ON YOUR PART.
YEAH, ABOUT ME BEING A GHOST. CAN YOU STOP AND TALK TO ME ABOUT IT FOR A MINUTE?
OH, MY GOSH, DUDE! OF COURSE!
I DIDN'T REALIZE THERE'D BE SO MUCH CLEANUP AFTER BEATING UP A SUPER VILLAIN.
DOCTOR STRANGE SAID THAT GIVEN THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF YOUR DEATH, YOU COULD HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO AVENGE IT AND ACHIEVE PEACE--
I'M PRETTY SURE I WAS AT PEACE. I DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING IN BETWEEN GETTING ZAPPED AND NOW.
DOUBTFUL. MORE LIKELY YOU'VE PROBABLY ALREADY FORGOTTEN THE TORMENTS OF HEL.
YOU SHOULD ASK THOR ABOUT IT NEXT TIME WE SEE HER.
WELL, HOW DO I...AVENGE THINGS THEN?!
AW, CECIL.
...
WHAT?
I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE BACK.
HM.
YEAH, I GUESS I AM, TOO. EVEN LIKE THIS.
YOU KNOW I HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF THE CLIENT THING.
YEAH.
BUT LOOK! DOCTOR STRANGE GAVE ME A BOOK ON GHOSTS! YOU SHOULD READ IT WHILE I'M GONE! YOU MIGHT FIND TIPS!
UM.
YEAH, UH... LEARN SOME TIPS.
THUNK

ACROSS town.
SPIDER-MAN
STAY INSIDE OR RUN AWAY, FOLKS!
HAS GOT THESE MONSTERS UNDER CONTROL--AAAAND NOPE, I'M STUCK.
TOM'S
ZITA'S CAFE
WILL QUIPS HELP DISTRACT AND ENRAGE YOU MONSTERS?
YOU BOYS GET QUIPS? HRK.
RAAAAAA!
SLASH
AH!
OKAY! JUST A COUPLE OF MONSTER BOYS FRESH OUT OF A RANDOM LAB, NO LANGUAGE SKILLS. WE'LL CUT TO THE END THEN.
ZZZT
ZZZT
RAAAAWWR

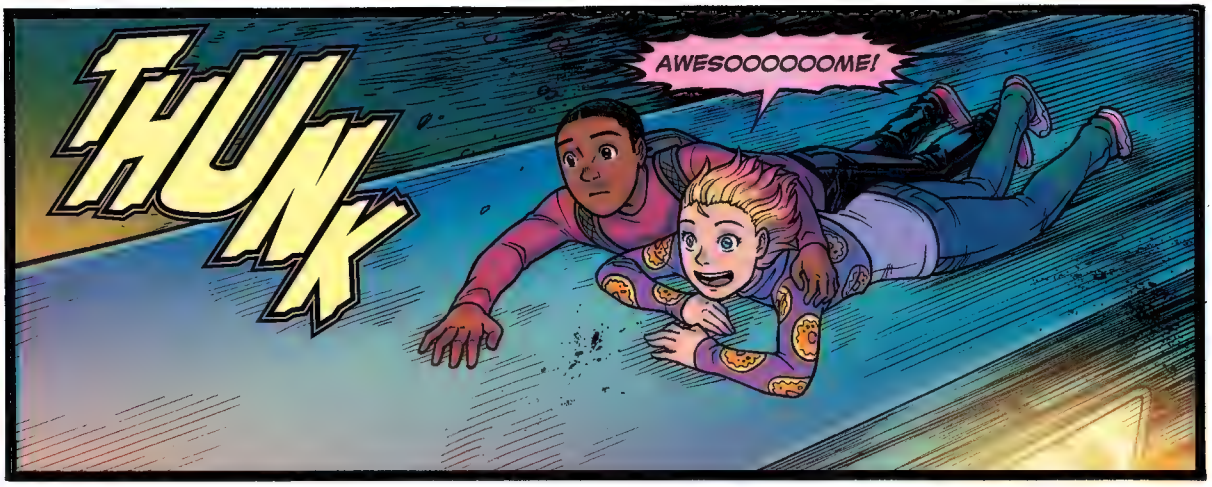
THUMP
THUMP
=HUFF=
HOPE THAT DOESN'T SCAR--
CRAP, I AM EXPOSED.
SORRY ABOUT YOUR TRUCK, TOM. WHOEVER YOU ARE. OR WHATEVER SERVICE IT IS YOU DO WITH THIS TRUCK.
TOM'S
WEEOO
OH. MONSTERS.
=SIGH=
CAN'T ARREST MONSTERS.
HEY, YOU SEE WHAT THE DEAL WAS WITH THESE THINGS?
I SAW SPIDER-MAN TAKE THEM OUT! HE WAS GREAT, AND THEN HE WENT IN THE COMPLETE OPPOSITE DIRECTION AS ME!

AAAAH, LATE AGAAAAAIN.
CAN'T GO SWINGING ACROSS TOWN WITH MY FACE HALF EXPOSED THOUGH.
NOT UNTIL PEOPLE GET OVER THIS WHOLE CAMERAS-ON-PHONES FAD...
WAITWAITWAITWAIT YESSSS!
PHEW
!!!

UH... WHAT'S UP?
HI! UM...
I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE RIDING THE SUBWAY!
SORRY, HAVE WE MET?
I'M A REALLY BIG FAN.
WHAT?!
YOU KNOW...

RIGHT?
WAIT, WHERE ARE YOU--
WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?
1604
MILES--MR. MORALES?
THWIP
ACK!

AH! TRAIN! THWIPS! SPIDER-MAN! LOVE YOU! AH!
WHO ARE YOU? HOW DO YOU KNOW WHO I AM?!
GULP
I REALLY DON'T NEED HIM THINKING I'M CRAZY RIGHT NOW.
I'M A NORMAL GIRL WHO WAS GIFTED WITH SECRET KNOWLEDGE FROM A DYING WATCHER.
DAMN. OKAY.
FUNNY HOW THAT WAS MORE PLAUSIBLE.
I HAVE NO INTENTION OF SPOILING YOUR SECRET IDENTITY.
I WAS JUST EXCITED TO MEET A REAL SPIDER-MAN.
SO, WHAT, YOU KNOW MY WHOLE LIFE HISTORY?
THE INTERESTING PARTS!
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO ABOUT YOU?
WELL, I KNOW YOU DON'T KILL. SO, HELP ME HOP THIS NEXT TRAIN?


THUNK
AWESOOOOOOME!

meanwhile...
LITTLE SPECTRE IN A BIG CITY:
How to Make the Most out of Your Ghost

LITTLE SPECTRE IN A BIG CITY:

I CAN'T OPEN THIS BOOK!

YOU ABSOLUTELY CANNOT TELL ANYBODY.

I *DEFINITELY* WON'T.

I WOULD LOVE TO SIT DOWN AND TALK ALL ABOUT WATCHERS, AND DANGEROUS KNOWLEDGE OR WHATEVER, BUT I'M ALREADY LATE FOR CLASS AND--

BOOM

OH, MY GOD. I GOTTA GET IN THERE.

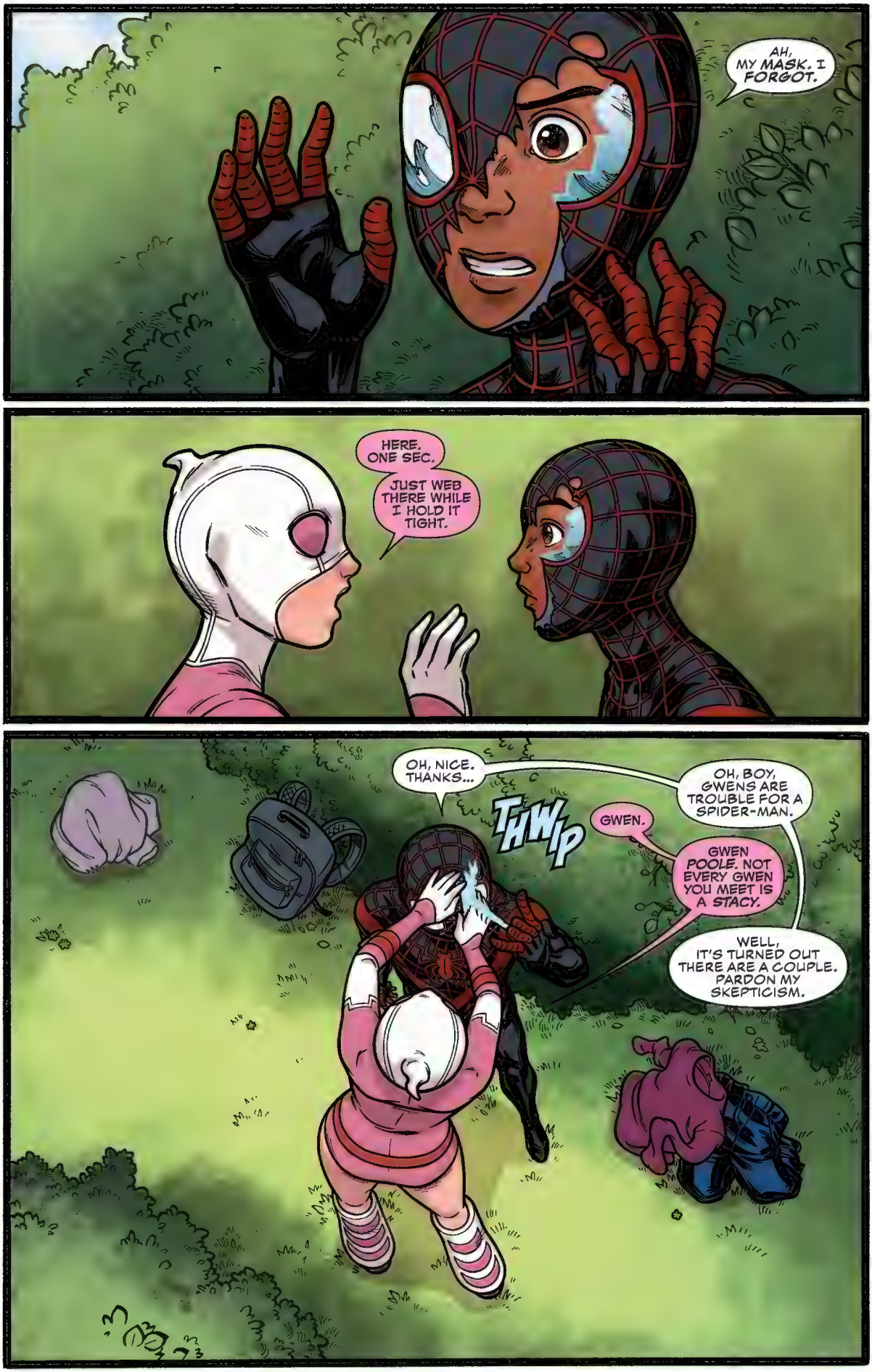
WORD UP.

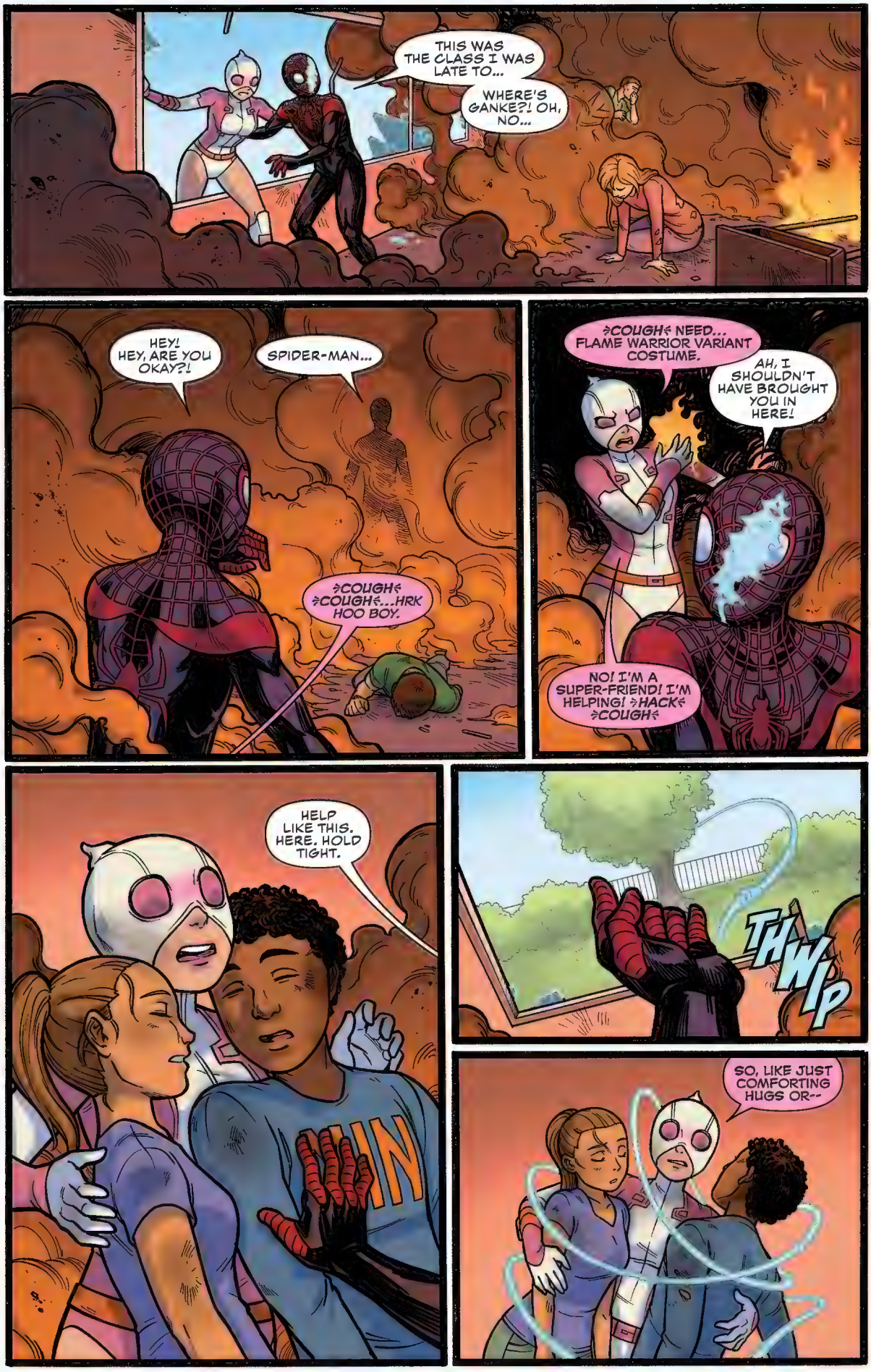
HOW WE DOING THIS?

WEB-SLINGSHOT INTO THE WINDOW? PROBABLY SHOULD GO WITH A WEB SLINGSHOT RIGHT INTO THE WINDOW.

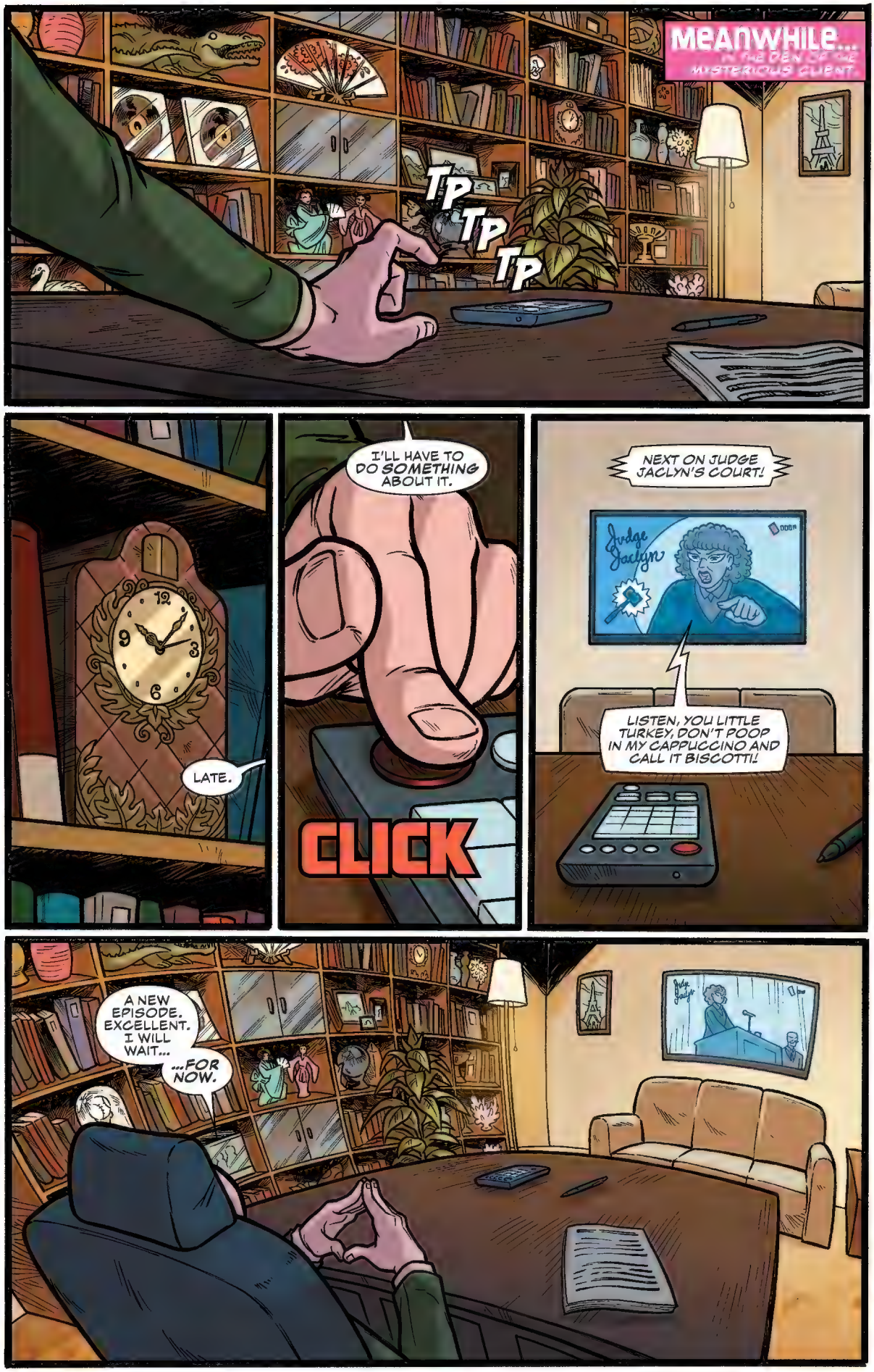
WHOA WHOA WHOA, I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU WERE A NORMAL PERSON.

AND *YOU'RE* NOT A FIREMAN, SO WHAT? LET'S GO SAVE THE DAY, DUDE!


AH, MY MASK. I FORGOT.
HERE. ONE SEC.
JUST WEB THERE WHILE I HOLD IT TIGHT.
OH, NICE. THANKS...
THWIP
GWEN.
OH, BOY, GWENS ARE TROUBLE FOR A SPIDER-MAN.
GWEN POOLE. NOT EVERY GWEN YOU MEET IS A STACY.
WELL, IT'S TURNED OUT THERE ARE A COUPLE. PARDON MY SKEPTICISM.


THIS WAS THE CLASS I WAS LATE TO...
WHERE'S GANKE?! OH, NO...
HEY! HEY, ARE YOU OKAY?!
SPIDER-MAN...
COUGH *COUGH*...HRK HOO BOY.
COUGH NEED... FLAME WARRIOR VARIANT COSTUME.
AH, I SHOULDN'T HAVE BROUGHT YOU IN HERE!
NO! I'M A SUPER-FRIEND! I'M HELPING! *HACK* *COUGH*
HELP LIKE THIS. HERE. HOLD TIGHT.
THWIP
SO, LIKE JUST COMFORTING HUGS OR--

YA!
HM, NOT SURE MY PRESENCE WAS *NECESSARY* IN THIS MANEUVER...
HEY!
IS SPIDER-MAN OKAY IN THERE?
HUH? OH, YOU'RE HIS LITTLE FRIEND, GANKE.
WHAT? I'M--
CHILL OUT, DUDE. I'M COOL.
YEAH. I THINK HE'S OKAY.
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT EVERYONE ELSE...
THIS WAS SCARY, *HUH?*
YEAH! YEAH, IT'S NUTS.


MEANWHILE...
IN THE DEN OF THE MYSTERIOUS CLIENT.
TP TP TP
LATE.
I'LL HAVE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.
CLICK
NEXT ON JUDGE JACLYN'S COURT!
Judge Jaclyn
LISTEN, YOU LITTLE TURKEY, DON'T POOP IN MY CAPPUCCINO AND CALL IT BISCOTTI!
A NEW EPISODE. EXCELLENT. I WILL WAIT...
...FOR NOW.

LATER...
THE MORALES HOUSE
MILES! I HEARD ABOUT SCHOOL! I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE OKAY! WHERE WERE YOU?!
OH, UH, I HAD TO GIVE A STATEMENT, AND GOT HELD UP.
WELL, YOUR FRIEND GWEN FROM SCHOOL GOT OUT OKAY, TOO.
WAIT, GWEN?
FACE IT, TIGER! YOU JUST GOT A STUDY BUDDY!
WHAT?
SINCE WHEN DO PEOPLE CALL YOU "TIGER"?
THEY DON'T.
IT'S A...
...REFERENCE.

OBVIOUSLY YOU'LL BE HOME FROM SCHOOL UNTIL EVERYTHING'S SAFE AGAIN. BUT GWEN SAYS YOU'VE GOT A TEAM ASSIGNMENT?
YEAH, WE'VE GOT A *BIG* PROJECT WE NEED TO WORK ON TOGETHER.
THE MYSTERIOUS BOMBING! WE GOTTA SOLVE IT! IT'S A SPIDER-MAN TEAM-UP! THIS IS GREAT!
WE DO.
OKAY, WELL KEEP YOUR DOOR OPEN. NO OFFENSE, GWEN.
YOU'RE A STRONG WOMAN AND I RESPECT YOU!
...
OKAY.

MERCI, MONSIEUR. IF WE HEAR ANYTHING WE'LL LET YOU KNOW.
GWEN NEVER MADE IT TO ZE MEETING. SHE'S NOT ANSWERING HER PHONE.
INCOMING CALL
OH, NO...
A CALL FROM SPACE! IT'S M.O.D.O.K.! HE FOUND A PHONE IN SPACE!
QUIET, TONY. YOU'VE DONE NOTHING WRONG.
BONJOUR! THIS IS M.O.D.O.K. TEAM.
WHERE ZE HELL ARE YOU, GWEN?

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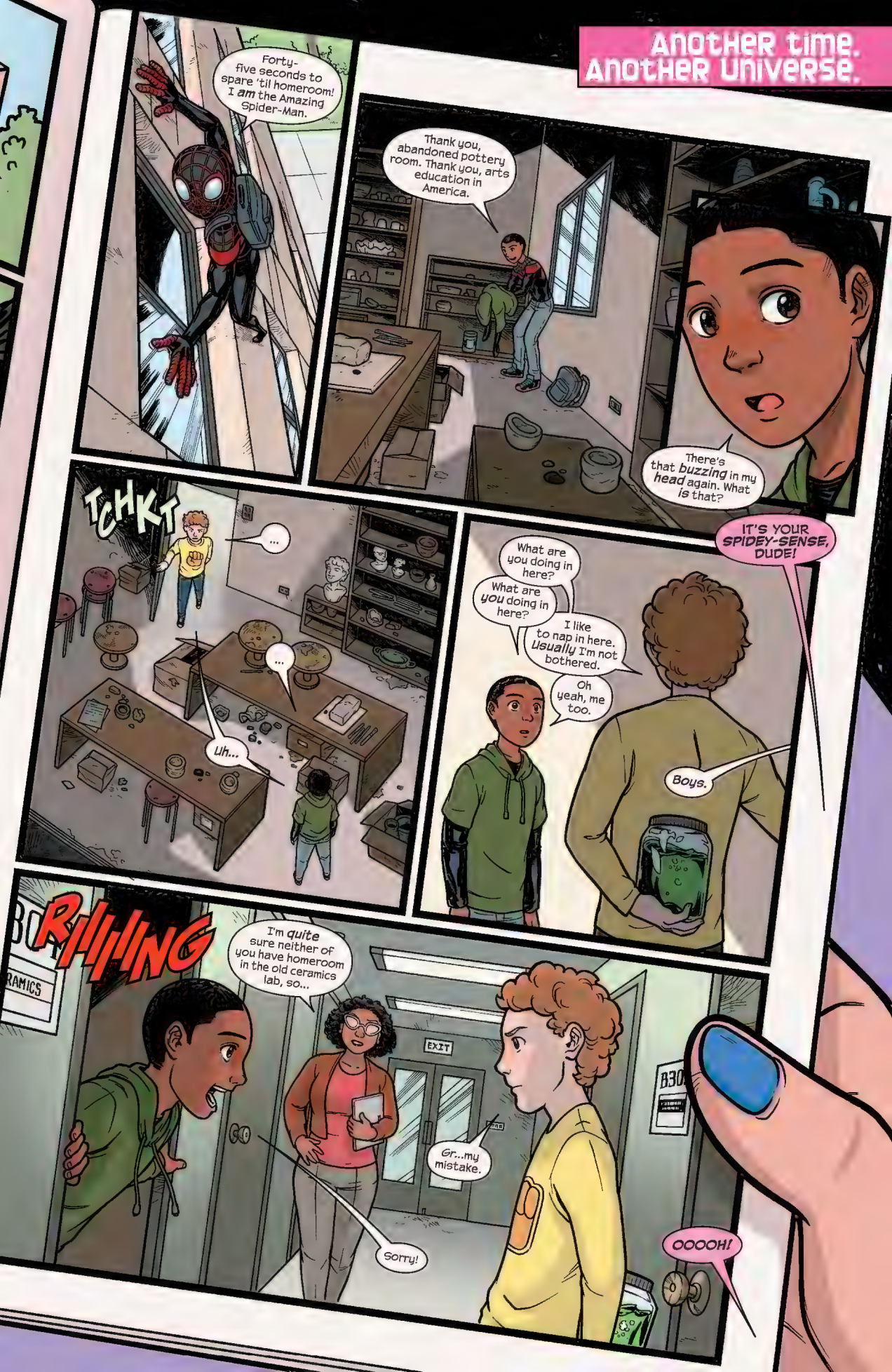
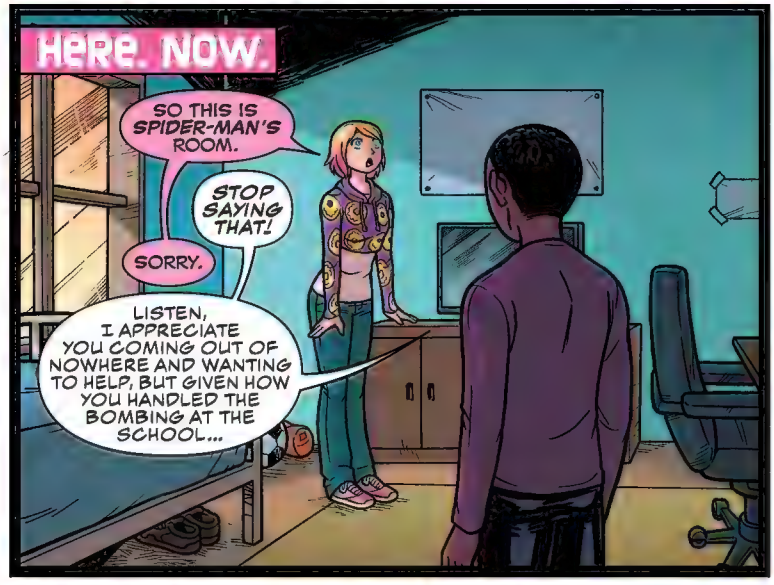
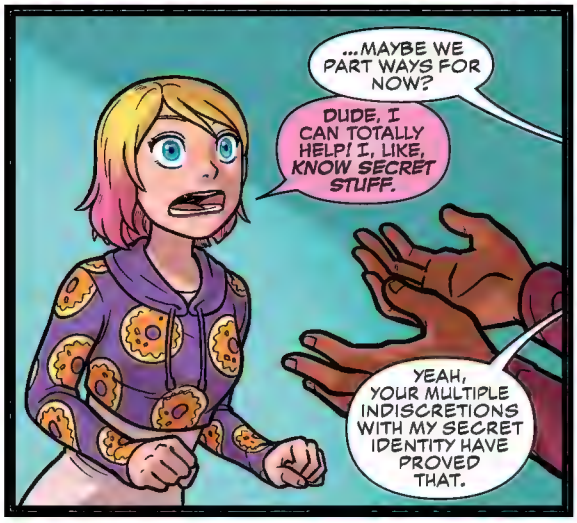
GWENPOOL

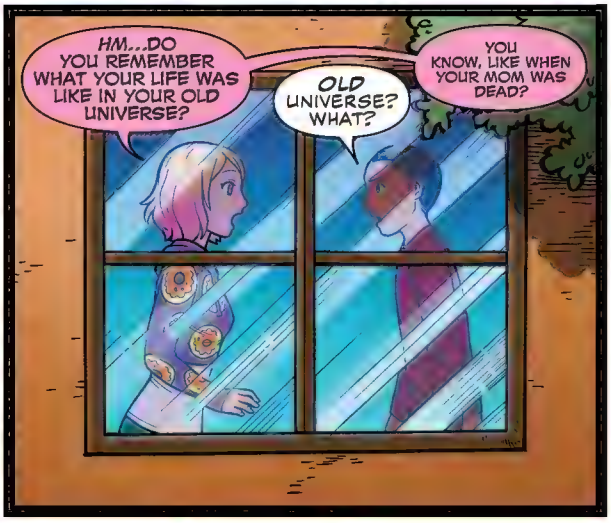

ANOTHER TIME. ANOTHER UNIVERSE.
Forty-five seconds to spare 'til homeroom! I am the Amazing Spider-Man.
Thank you, abandoned pottery room. Thank you, arts education in America.
There's that buzzing in my head again. What is that?
IT'S YOUR SPIDEY-SENSE, DUDE!
TCHKT
...
...
Uh...
What are you doing in here?
What are you doing in here?
I like to nap in here. Usually I'm not bothered.
Oh yeah, me too.
Boys.
RIIING
I'm quite sure neither of you have homeroom in the old ceramics lab, so...
EXIT
Gr...my mistake.
Sorry!
OOOOH!

AND IN A VERY DIFFERENT UNIVERSE ENTIRELY.
BEFORE...
MILES, THAT DUDE DOESN'T LIKE YOOOOU!
WELL, WHATEVER THAT GUY WAS PLANNING, SECRET WARS IS PROBABLY GOING TO TOTALLY MESS IT UP...
WHAT WITH THE UNIVERSES GETTING ALL BLOWN UP AND--
MARVEL ULTIMATE SPIDER-MAN
RRRUUMMMBBLLEE
HUH?

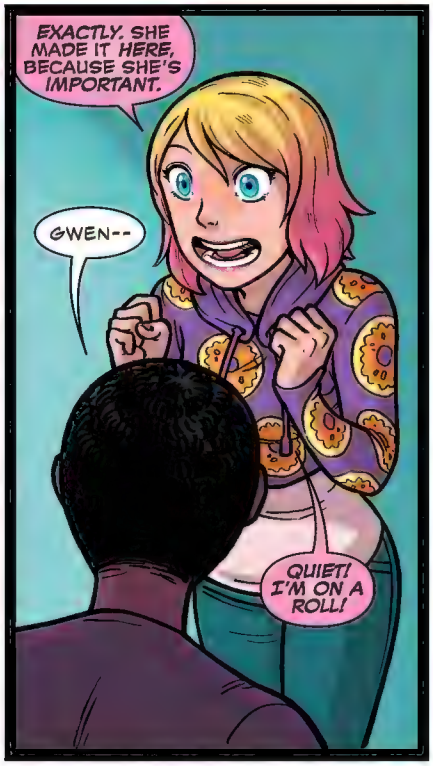

HERE. NOW.
SO THIS IS SPIDER-MAN'S ROOM.
STOP SAYING THAT!
SORRY.
LISTEN, I APPRECIATE YOU COMING OUT OF NOWHERE AND WANTING TO HELP, BUT GIVEN HOW YOU HANDLED THE BOMBING AT THE SCHOOL...

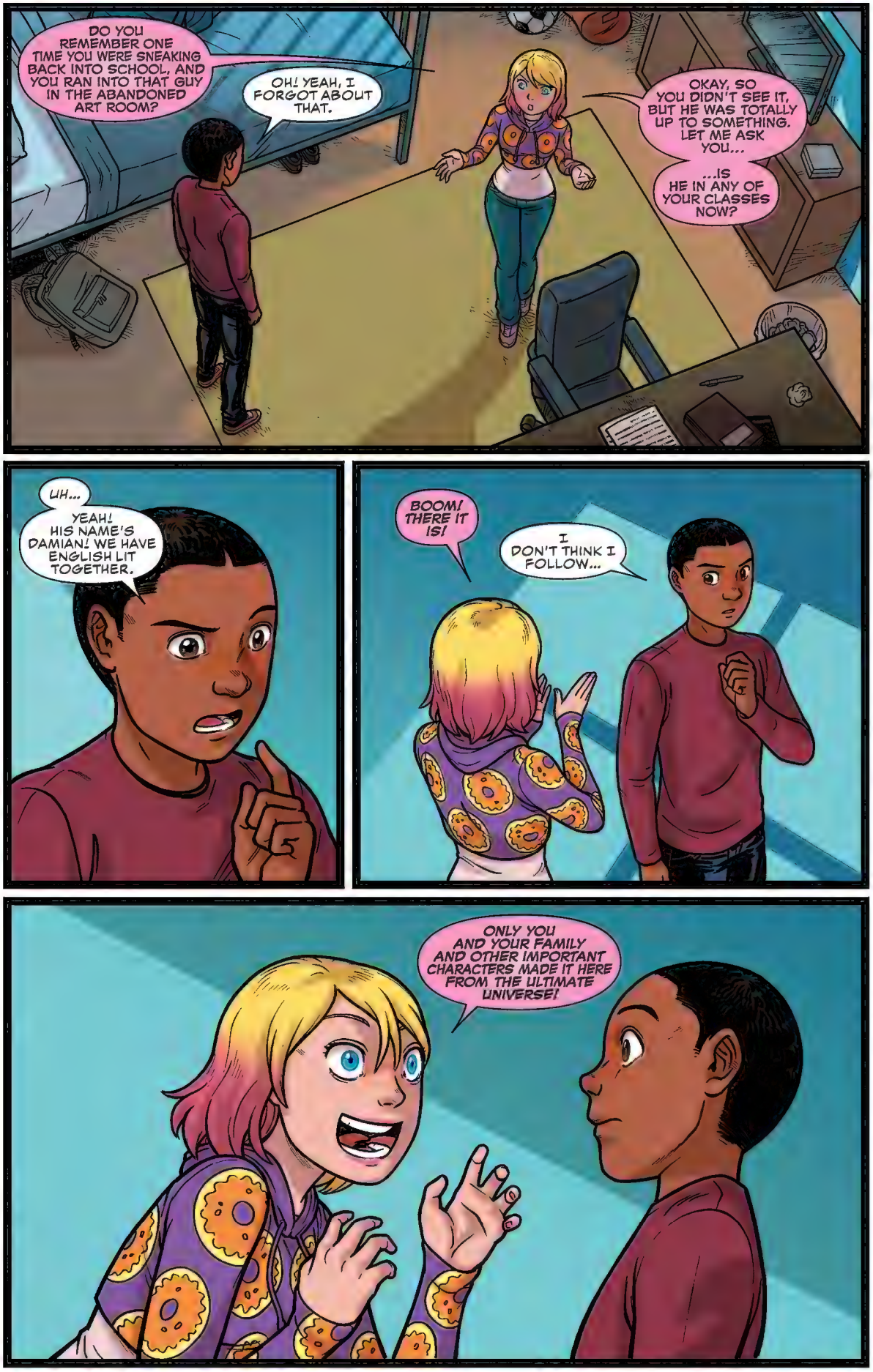
PREVIOUSLY...
HACK HACK HACK AACGHH!

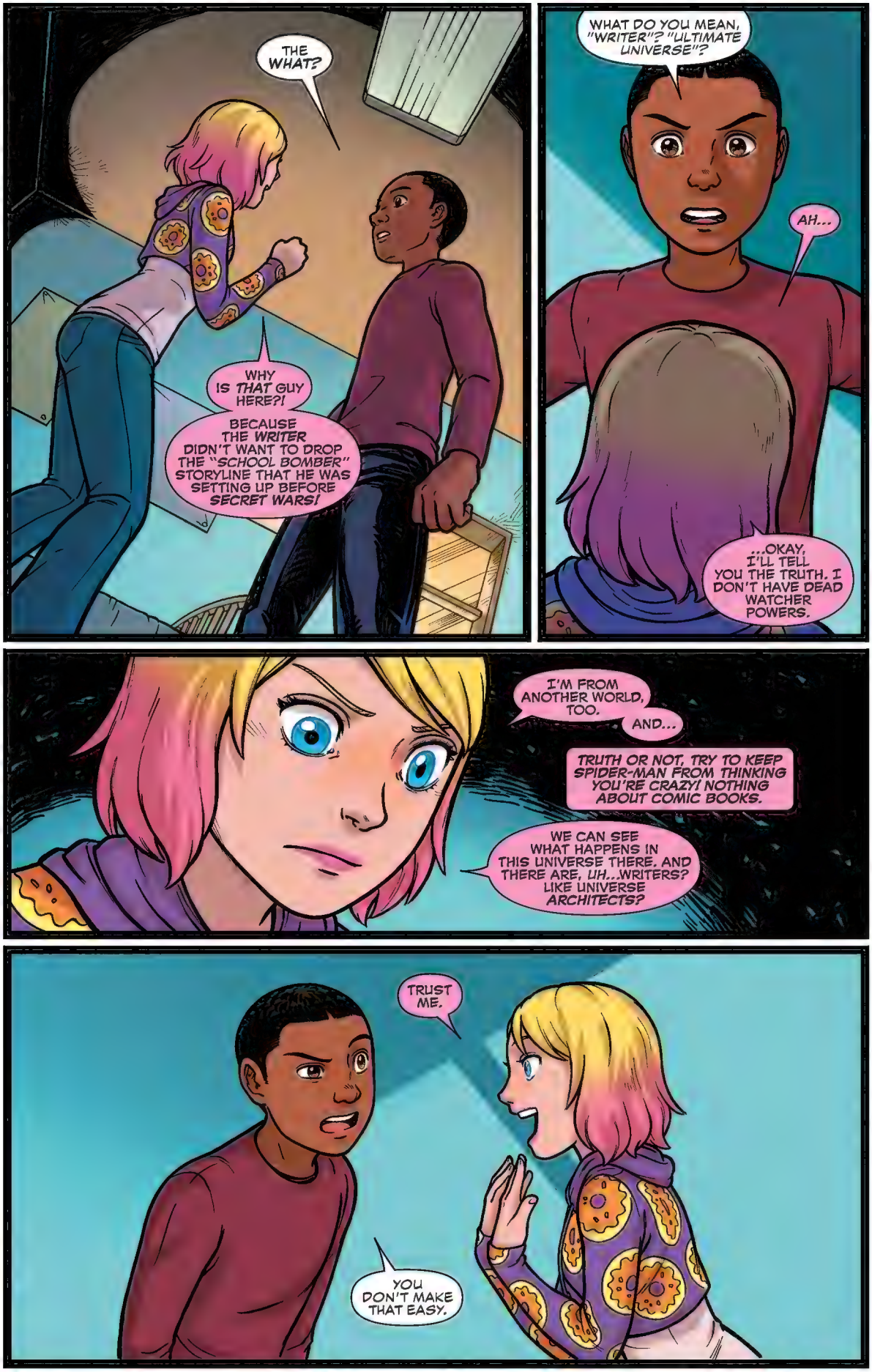

...MAYBE WE PART WAYS FOR NOW?
DUDE, I CAN TOTALLY HELP! I, LIKE, KNOW SECRET STUFF.
YEAH, YOUR MULTIPLE INDISCRETIONS WITH MY SECRET IDENTITY HAVE PROVED THAT.


HM...DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT YOUR LIFE WAS LIKE IN YOUR OLD UNIVERSE?
OLD UNIVERSE? WHAT?
YOU KNOW, LIKE WHEN YOUR MOM WAS DEAD?

UH, SHE LOOKS PRETTY ALIVE TO ME.


EXACTLY. SHE MADE IT HERE, BECAUSE SHE'S IMPORTANT.
GWEN--
QUIET! I'M ON A ROLL!


DO YOU REMEMBER ONE TIME YOU WERE SNEAKING BACK INTO SCHOOL, AND YOU RAN INTO THAT GUY IN THE ABANDONED ART ROOM?
OH! YEAH, I FORGOT ABOUT THAT.
OKAY, SO YOU DIDN'T SEE IT, BUT HE WAS TOTALLY UP TO SOMETHING. LET ME ASK YOU...
...IS HE IN ANY OF YOUR CLASSES NOW?
UH...
YEAH! HIS NAME'S DAMIAN! WE HAVE ENGLISH LIT TOGETHER.
BOOM! THERE IT IS!
I DON'T THINK I FOLLOW...
ONLY YOU AND YOUR FAMILY AND OTHER IMPORTANT CHARACTERS MADE IT HERE FROM THE ULTIMATE UNIVERSE!


THE WHAT?
WHY IS THAT GUY HERE?!
BECAUSE THE WRITER DIDN'T WANT TO DROP THE "SCHOOL BOMBER" STORYLINE THAT HE WAS SETTING UP BEFORE SECRET WARS!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "WRITER"? "ULTIMATE UNIVERSE"?
AH...
...OKAY, I'LL TELL YOU THE TRUTH. I DON'T HAVE DEAD WATCHER POWERS.
I'M FROM ANOTHER WORLD, TOO.
AND...
TRUTH OR NOT, TRY TO KEEP SPIDER-MAN FROM THINKING YOU'RE CRAZY! NOTHING ABOUT COMIC BOOKS.
WE CAN SEE WHAT HAPPENS IN THIS UNIVERSE THERE. AND THERE ARE, UH...WRITERS? LIKE UNIVERSE ARCHITECTS?
TRUST ME.
YOU DON'T MAKE THAT EASY.

SOON...
BING BONG
BING BONG
MOM! THE DOOR!
I'M IN THE BATHROOM!
DOOM
GRUMBLE
YEAH?
HELLO?

THUNK
HUH?

AAAAAH!
WHY'D YOU DO IT, MAN?
SPIDER-MAN?
YOU BOMBED A CLASSROOM BECAUSE OF "SPIDER-MAN"? I DON'T BUY THAT.
BOOM!
HOW DID YOU FIND ME?
CLASS DIRECTORY.
SPIDER-SENSE.
WELL, I WAS COMPLETELY JUSTIFIED IN MY ACTIONS.
UH-HUH.
SEE, THE LOTTERY SCHOOL SYSTEM IS A SYMBOL OF INEQUALITY.
YEAH, I SEE THAT.
OKAY, SO... YEAH. LIKE, THE SYSTEM IS, UH, UNJUST AND... THAT'S IT.
I WANTED TO DESTROY IT.
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE SAID IT OUT LOUD.
SO, DO YOU NEED TO BE KNOCKED OUT BEFORE I HAND YOU OVER TO THE COPS OR...
NO! DON'T!

HIIIIIIIII!
ANY LAST WORDS, FOUL VILLAIN?
I--
TOO LATE!
GWEN!
BLAM
KLUMPF

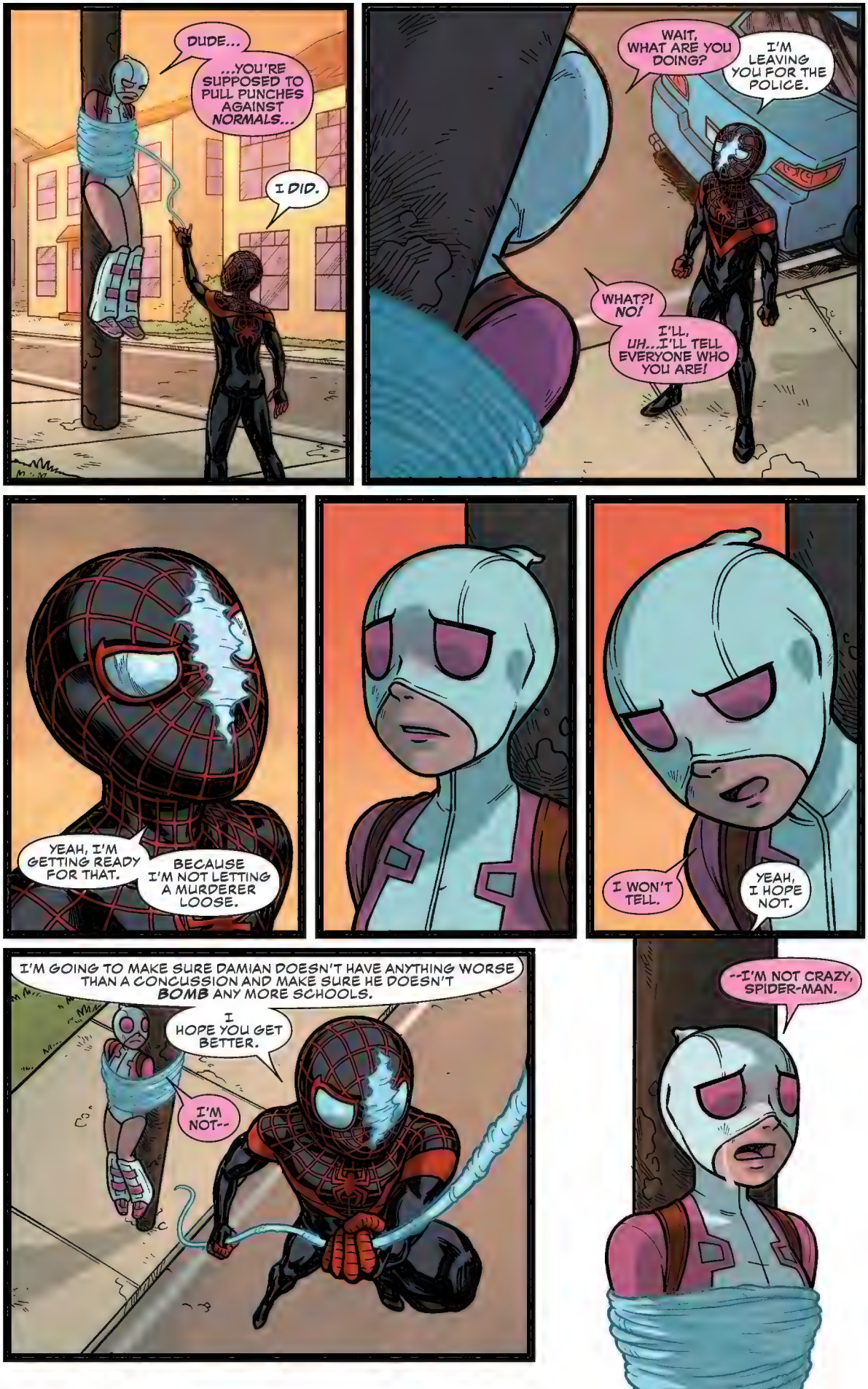
OH, NICE. BAD GUY BONKED HIS HEAD AND PASSED OUT. WHY'D YOU DO THAT?!
WELL, YEAH! HE'S A FOUL VILLAIN!
YOU TRIED TO KILL HIM!
WHAT WAS THAT NOISE--
DAMIAN?!
DAMIAN?!

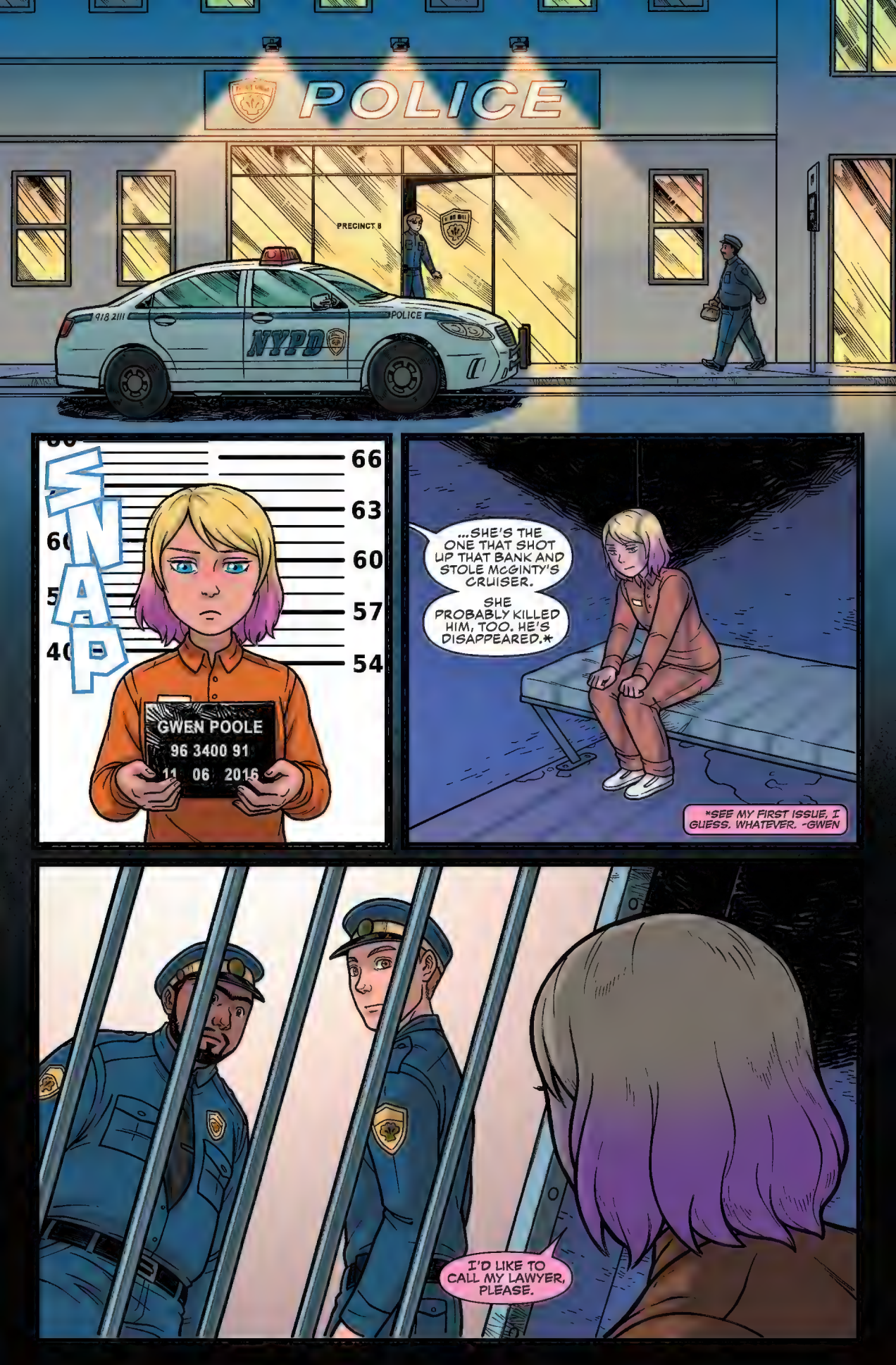
NO... NO... NO...
OH, CHILL OUT, LADY. YOUR SUPER VILLAIN IN THE MAKING IS TOTALLY FINE, NO THANKS TO SPIDER-MAN HERE!
SEE YOU NEVER!
WHAT DID YOU DO TO MY SON?!
WHY DID SPIDER-MAN BREAK INTO MY HOUSE TO HURT MY SON?!
I SAVED HIS LIFE! HE JUST HIT HIS HEAD!
SOB
BOOF!
COME ON, SPIDEY! WE'LL FIGURE OUT HOW TO TAKE HIM OUT ANOTHER DAY!

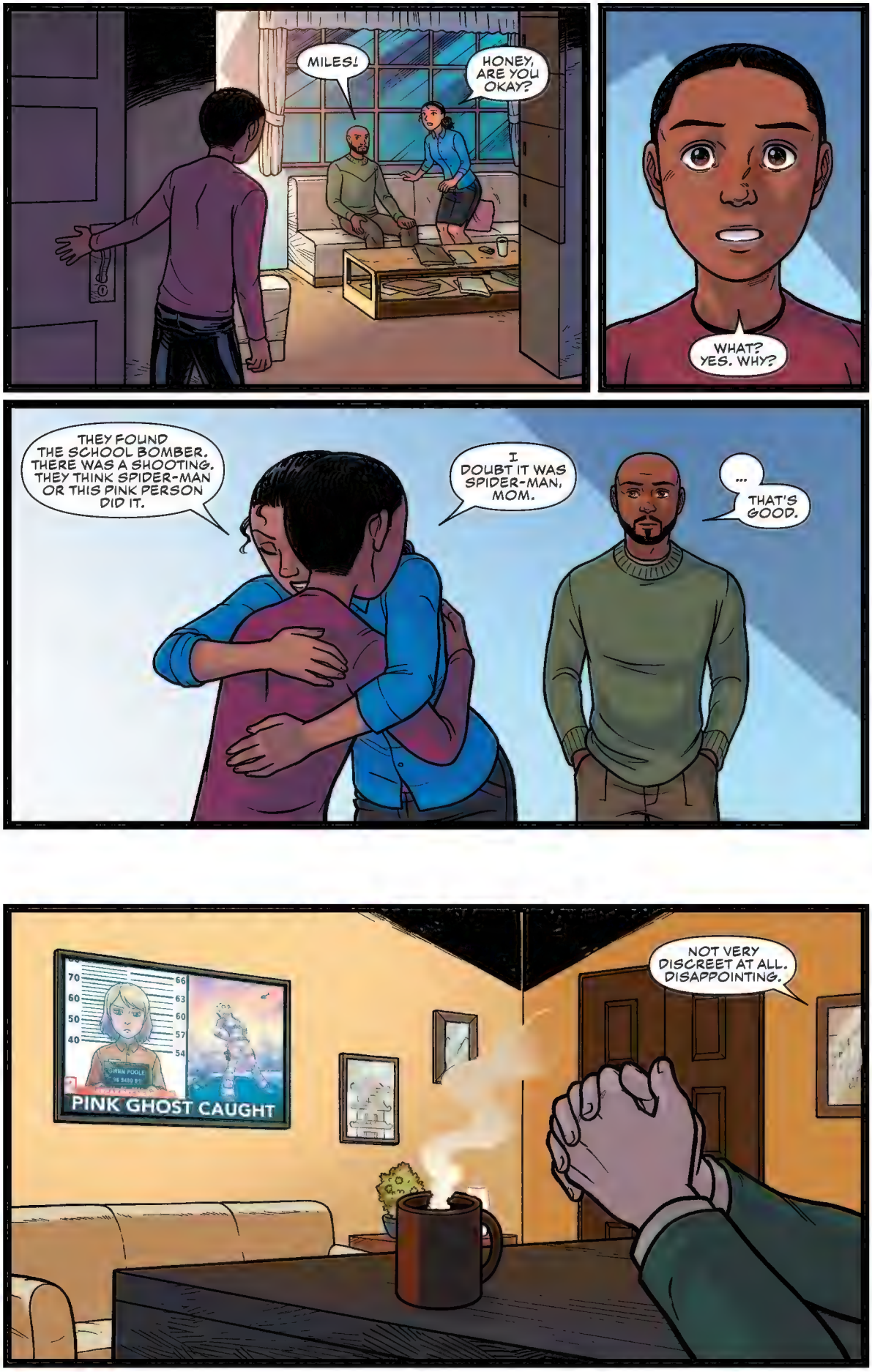
THWIP
GUNK
GAAK
SPIDEY?

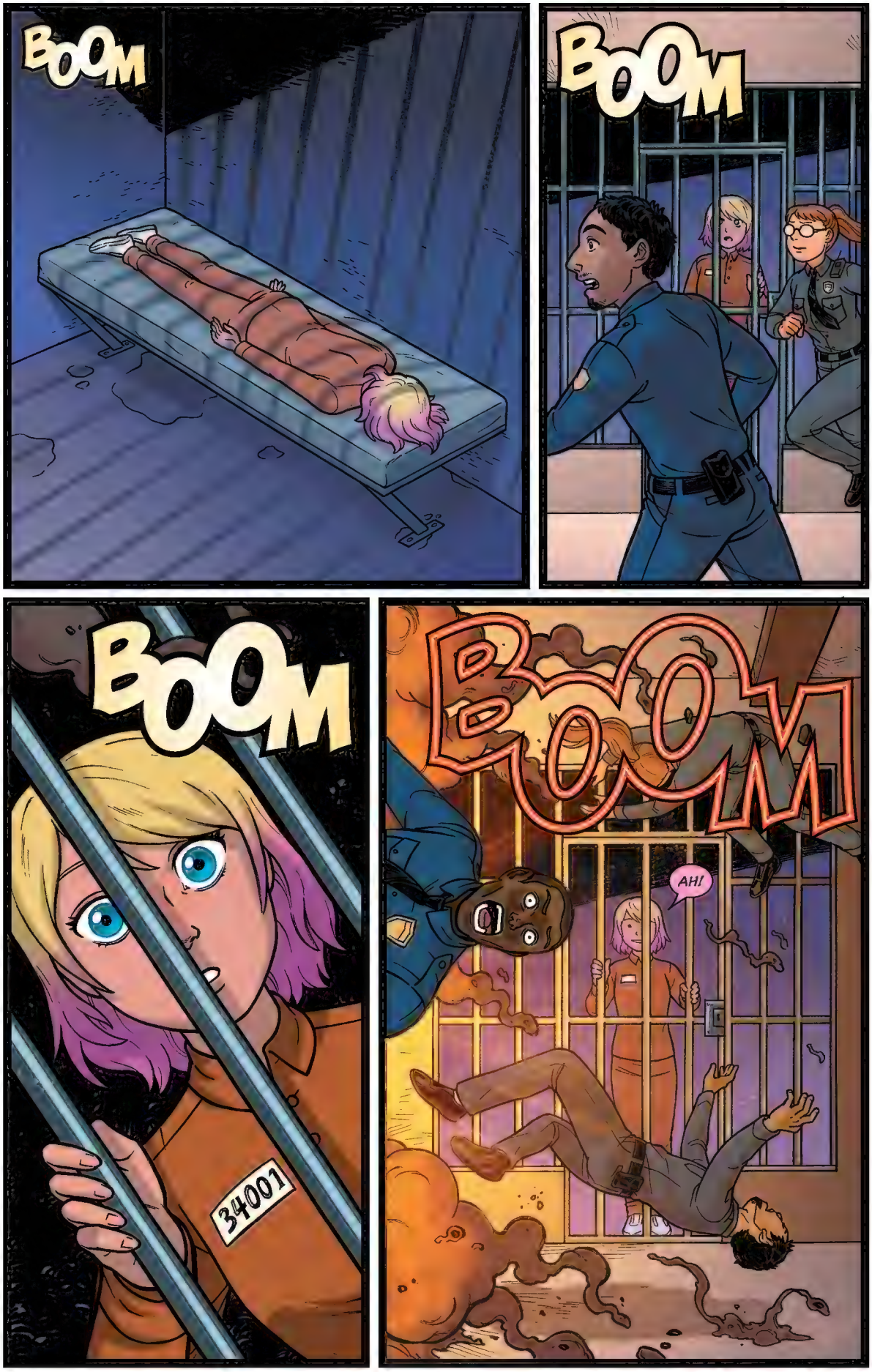
YOU ALMOST KILLED HIM! WHY?! WHY?!
HE BLEW UP YOUR SCHOOL, DUDE! I WAS TRYING TO SAVE YOU A TON OF HASSLE!
HASSLE?! NOT KILLING PEOPLE ISN'T ABOUT CONVENIENCE!
HE WASN'T IMPORTANT! HE WAS A PLOT DEVICE! A B-STORY!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?!
SOMEBODY SAID "OH, REMEMBER THAT KID WHO WAS GOING TO BOMB THE SCHOOL IN THE ULTIMATE UNIVERSE? HE CAN DO IT IN THE MAIN ONE NOW!"
OH, GOD...
YOU'RE IN A COMIC BOOK, MILES!
YOU'RE... YOU'RE JUST A CRAZY PERSON.
NO. I'M THE BABY PUNISHER TO YOUR BABY SPIDER-MAN.

HUH!
BLAM
HONESTLY, WE SHOULD HAVE *STARTED* WITH THIS FIGHT. WHENEVER SUPER HEROES TEAM UP, THEY FIGHT OVER A MISUNDERSTANDING AT THE *BEGINNING.*
BUT NOW I SEE THIS IS THE SETUP OF A COMPLICATED HERO/ANTIHERO RELATIONSHIP. WE'LL CROSS PATHS OVER THE YEARS, BE FORCED TO COOPERATE DESPITE--
THWOCK


DUDE...
...YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO PULL PUNCHES AGAINST NORMALS...
I DID.
WAIT, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
I'M LEAVING YOU FOR THE POLICE.
WHAT?! NO!
I'LL, UH...I'LL TELL EVERYONE WHO YOU ARE!
YEAH, I'M GETTING READY FOR THAT.
BECAUSE I'M NOT LETTING A MURDERER LOOSE.
I WON'T TELL.
YEAH, I HOPE NOT.
I'M GOING TO MAKE SURE DAMIAN DOESN'T HAVE ANYTHING WORSE THAN A CONCUSSION AND MAKE SURE HE DOESN'T BOMB ANY MORE SCHOOLS.
I HOPE YOU GET BETTER.
I'M NOT--
--I'M NOT CRAZY, SPIDER-MAN.


POLICE
PRECINCT 8
NYPD
POLICE
SNAP
66
63
60
57
54
GWEN POOLE
96 3400 91
11 06 2016
...SHE'S THE ONE THAT SHOT UP THAT BANK AND STOLE MCGINTY'S CRUISER.
SHE PROBABLY KILLED HIM, TOO. HE'S DISAPPEARED.*
*SEE MY FIRST ISSUE, I GUESS. WHATEVER. -GWEN
I'D LIKE TO CALL MY LAWYER, PLEASE.


MILES!
HONEY, ARE YOU OKAY?
WHAT? YES. WHY?
THEY FOUND THE SCHOOL BOMBER. THERE WAS A SHOOTING. THEY THINK SPIDER-MAN OR THIS PINK PERSON DID IT.
I DOUBT IT WAS SPIDER-MAN, MOM.
... THAT'S GOOD.
PINK GHOST CAUGHT
NOT VERY DISCREET AT ALL. DISAPPOINTING.


BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
34001
BOOM
AH!

MY LAWYER'S HERE.
HAD QUITE A DAY, I SEE.

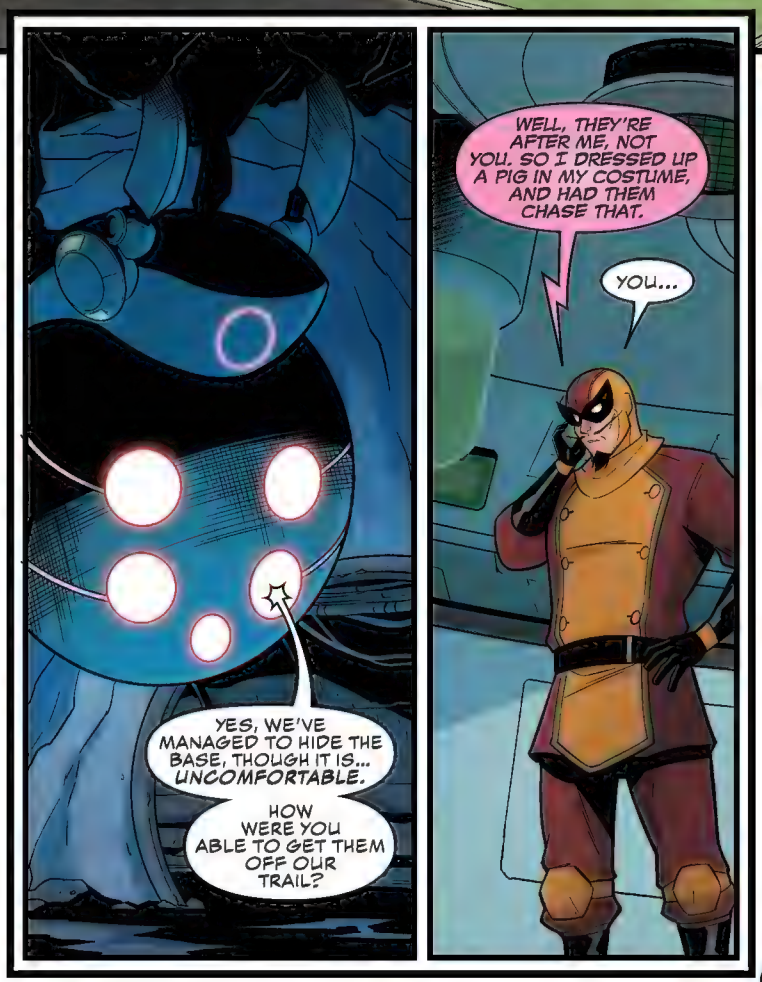
THANKS, BATROC.
GWEN! WHAT HAPPENED?!
WHERE WERE YOU?
I MET SPIDER-MAN.
IT DIDN'T GO GREAT.
AT LEAST YOU'RE STILL ALIVE.
HEY, THAT'S NOT FAIR.
WAIT, I KILLED THEM!
TELL HIM I--
UGH, I'LL GET BACK ON WORKING UP A DEFENSE AGAINST THE TEUTHIDANS.
NOT THESE ONES.
I'LL TRY TO SET UP A NEW MEETING WITH THE CLIENT SO HE WON'T FIRE US.
--GOT EXCITED TO RUN OFF WITH SPIDER-MAN AND ABANDONED US? NO, I'LL MAKE SOMETHING UP, DO NOT WORRY.
I...
...THIS ISN'T FUN.

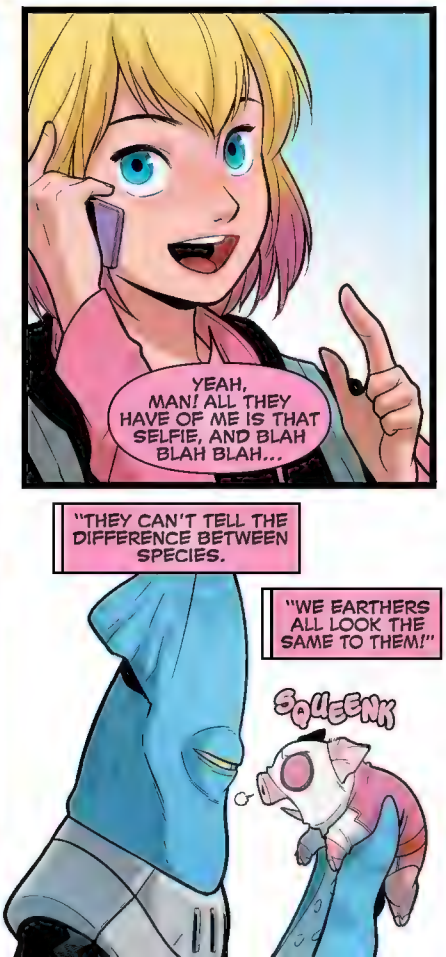
7

NEW YORK, TIMES SQUARE.
SO I MADE SOME ALIENS PRETTY MAD.
AS YOU CAN SEE.
BOOM
B-BOOM
SQWENK!!

GWEN! WHAT HAPPENED?! ARE YOU OKAY?
NOT TOO LONG AFTER I ENDED UP IN COMIC BOOK WORLD, I TOOK CREDIT FOR KILLING A BUNCH OF THESE SQUID-HEAD-LOOKIN' ALIENS. THEY KNOW I'M IN M.O.D.O.K. WITH BATROC THE LEAPER THERE.
AND THEY MIGHT HAVE LAUNCHED A DEVASTATING ASSAULT AGAINST OUR MOBILE BASE.
WENK! W-WENK WENK!
AND LOOK WHAT THEY DID TO ME!!!
GWEN POOLE.

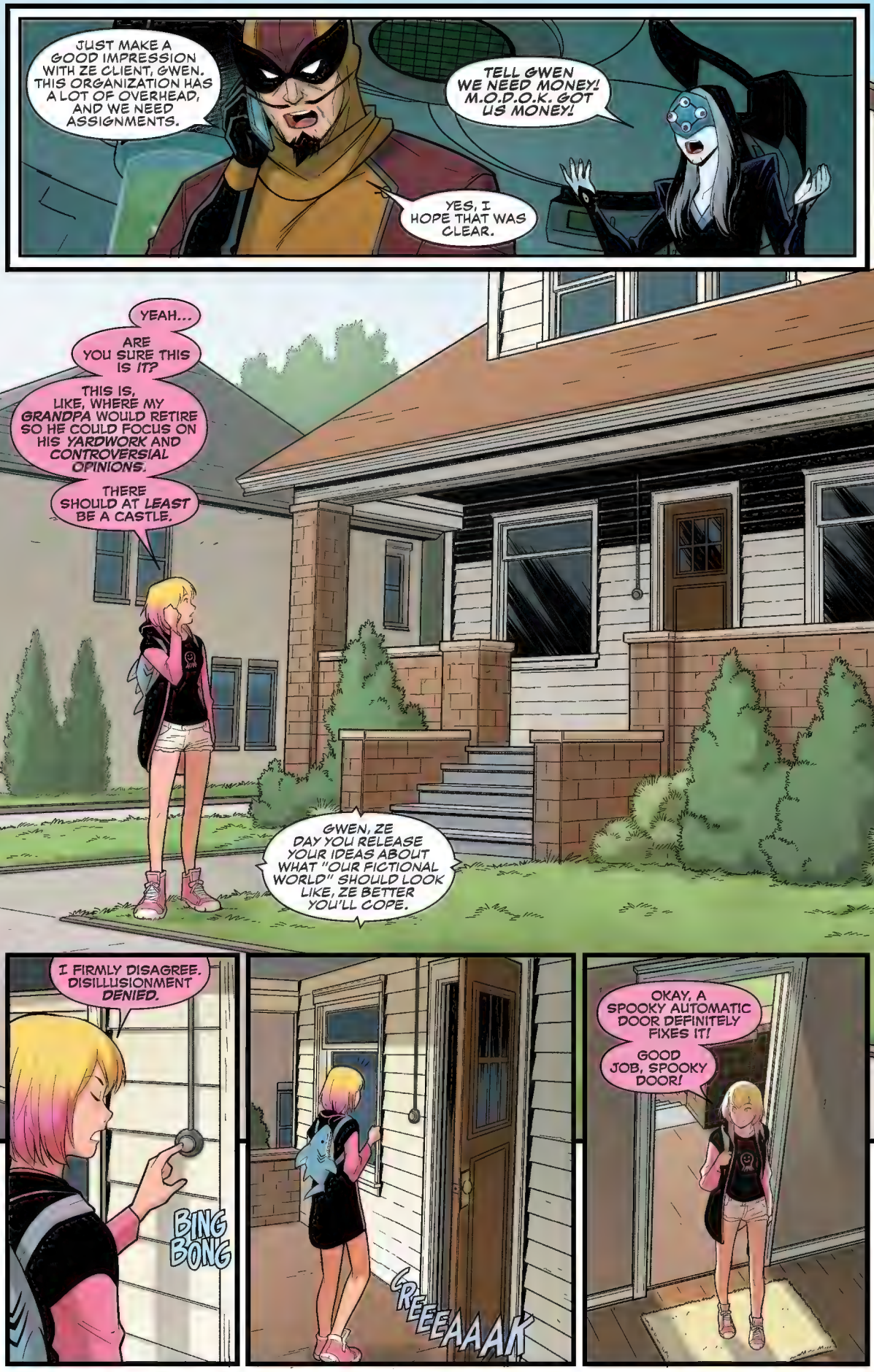
GWEN! COME IN!
BAY RIDGE, BROOKLYN.
JUST KIDDING!
YEAH! I'M FINE! DID YOU GUYS GET AWAY?

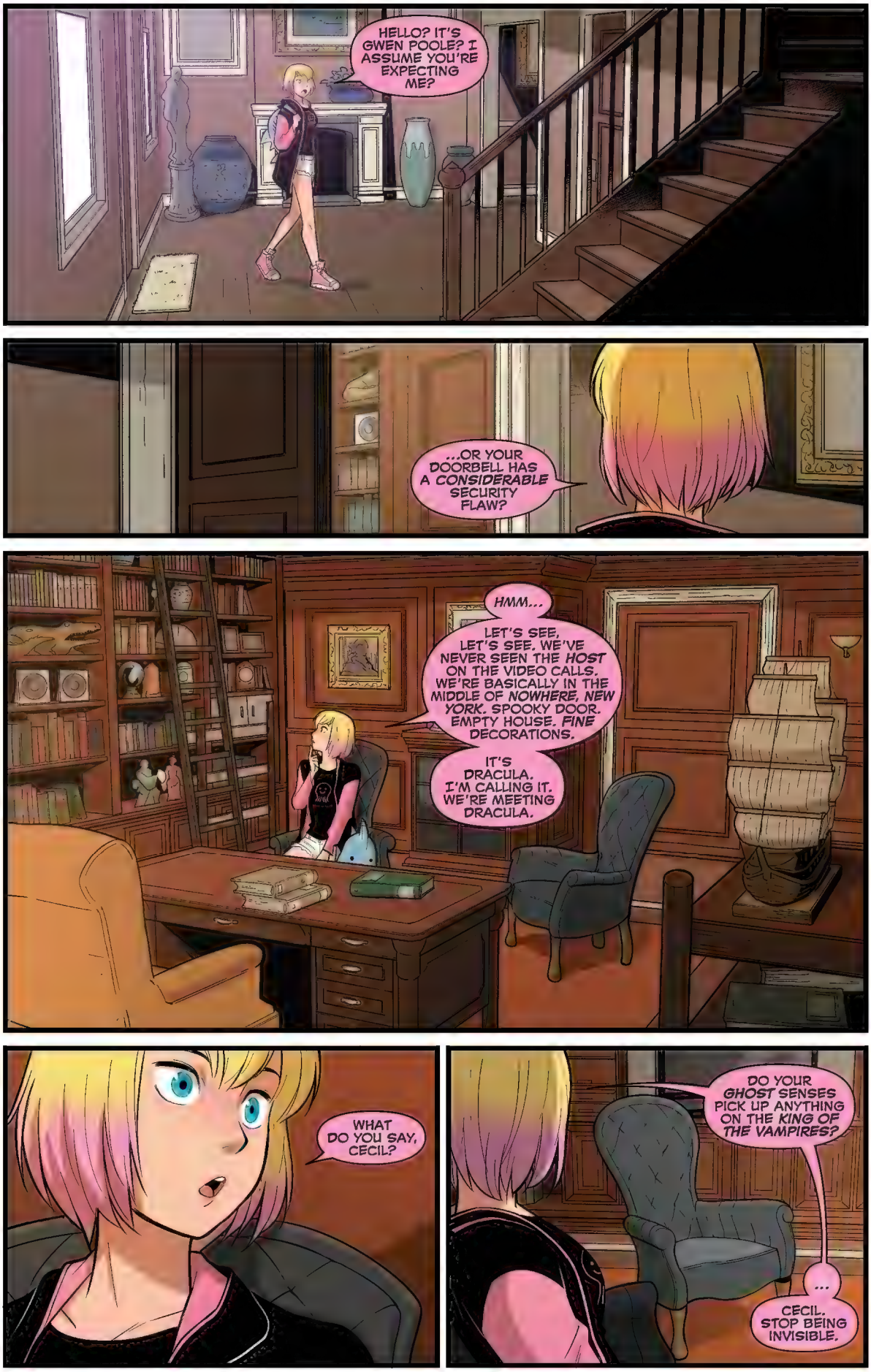

YES, WE'VE MANAGED TO HIDE THE BASE, THOUGH IT IS... UNCOMFORTABLE.
HOW WERE YOU ABLE TO GET THEM OFF OUR TRAIL?
WELL, THEY'RE AFTER ME, NOT YOU. SO I DRESSED UP A PIG IN MY COSTUME, AND HAD THEM CHASE THAT.
YOU...


YEAH, MAN! ALL THEY HAVE OF ME IS THAT SELFIE, AND BLAH BLAH BLAH...
"THEY CAN'T TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SPECIES.
"WE EARTHERS ALL LOOK THE SAME TO THEM!"
SQUEENK

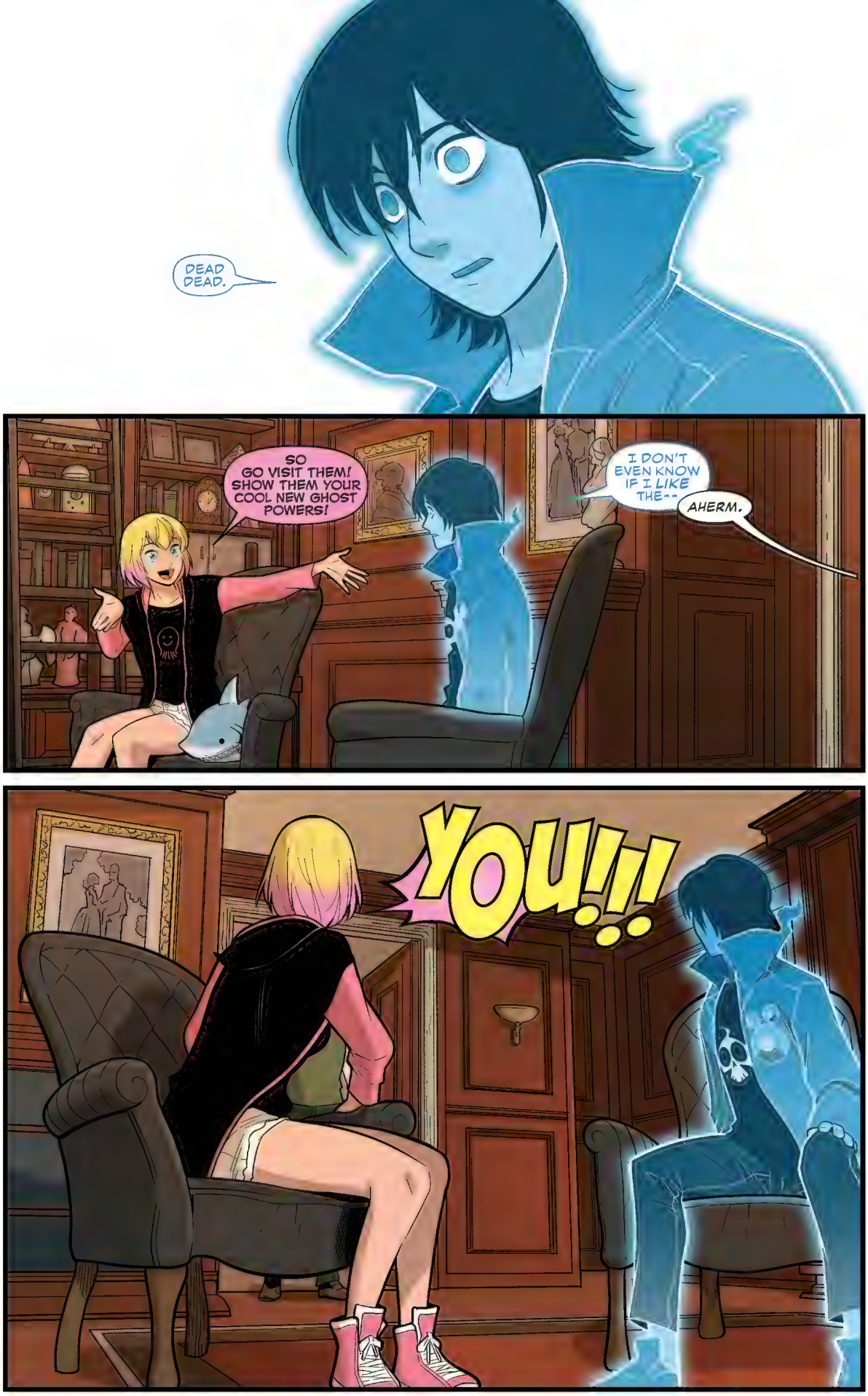
DO YOU KNOW THIS BECAUSE...
...COMIC BOOKS?
THEY ARE RACIST, BATROC.
THEY ARE OUR ENEMY, AND THEY ARE ALIENS, AND THEY ARE RACIST.
UH, MAYBE? I DON'T KNOW?
I HAVE NEVER HEARD OF THESE ALIENS.
DROP YOUR WEAPONS! DROP THE PIG!
SO, THEY WERE PROBABLY MADE UP *SPECIFICALLY* FOR ME TO MESS WITH, AND I THINK THIS IS A GOOD WAY TO MESS WITH THEM.

ALIENS THAT CAN'T TELL SPECIES APART ARE A THING IN FICTION, RIGHT? I'VE TOTALLY SEEN THAT BEFORE SOMEWHERE.
P-PIG?
KEEP THE PIG IF YOU WANT! JUST DROP THE WEAPONS!
GLAD I WAS RIGHT. SORRY, PIG.
ALTHOUGH, I'VE EATEN TONS OF BARBECUE, SO THIS ISN'T NECESSARILY THE WORST THING I'VE DONE TO A PIG.
BUT ALL OF THE M.O.D.O.K. MERCS ARE FINE AND HAVE ESCAPED THE ALIENS WHO ARE TRYING TO KILL ME, SO THE PLAN WAS GREAT. THE END.
RETREAAAT!
YOU KNOW, I DON'T THINK COPS IN OTHER CITIES HAVE TO YELL "RETREAT" ALL THE TIME...
BLAM BLAM


JUST MAKE A GOOD IMPRESSION WITH ZE CLIENT, GWEN. THIS ORGANIZATION HAS A LOT OF OVERHEAD, AND WE NEED ASSIGNMENTS.
TELL GWEN WE NEED MONEY! M.O.D.O.K. GOT US MONEY!
YES, I HOPE THAT WAS CLEAR.
YEAH...
ARE YOU SURE THIS IS *IT*?
THIS IS, LIKE, WHERE MY *GRANDPA* WOULD RETIRE SO HE COULD FOCUS ON HIS *YARDWORK* AND *CONTROVERSIAL OPINIONS*.
THERE SHOULD AT *LEAST* BE A CASTLE.
GWEN, ZE DAY YOU RELEASE YOUR IDEAS ABOUT WHAT "OUR FICTIONAL WORLD" SHOULD LOOK LIKE, ZE BETTER YOU'LL COPE.
I FIRMLY DISAGREE. DISILLUSIONMENT *DENIED*.
BING BONG
CREEEAAAK
OKAY, A SPOOKY AUTOMATIC DOOR DEFINITELY FIXES IT!
GOOD JOB, SPOOKY DOOR!

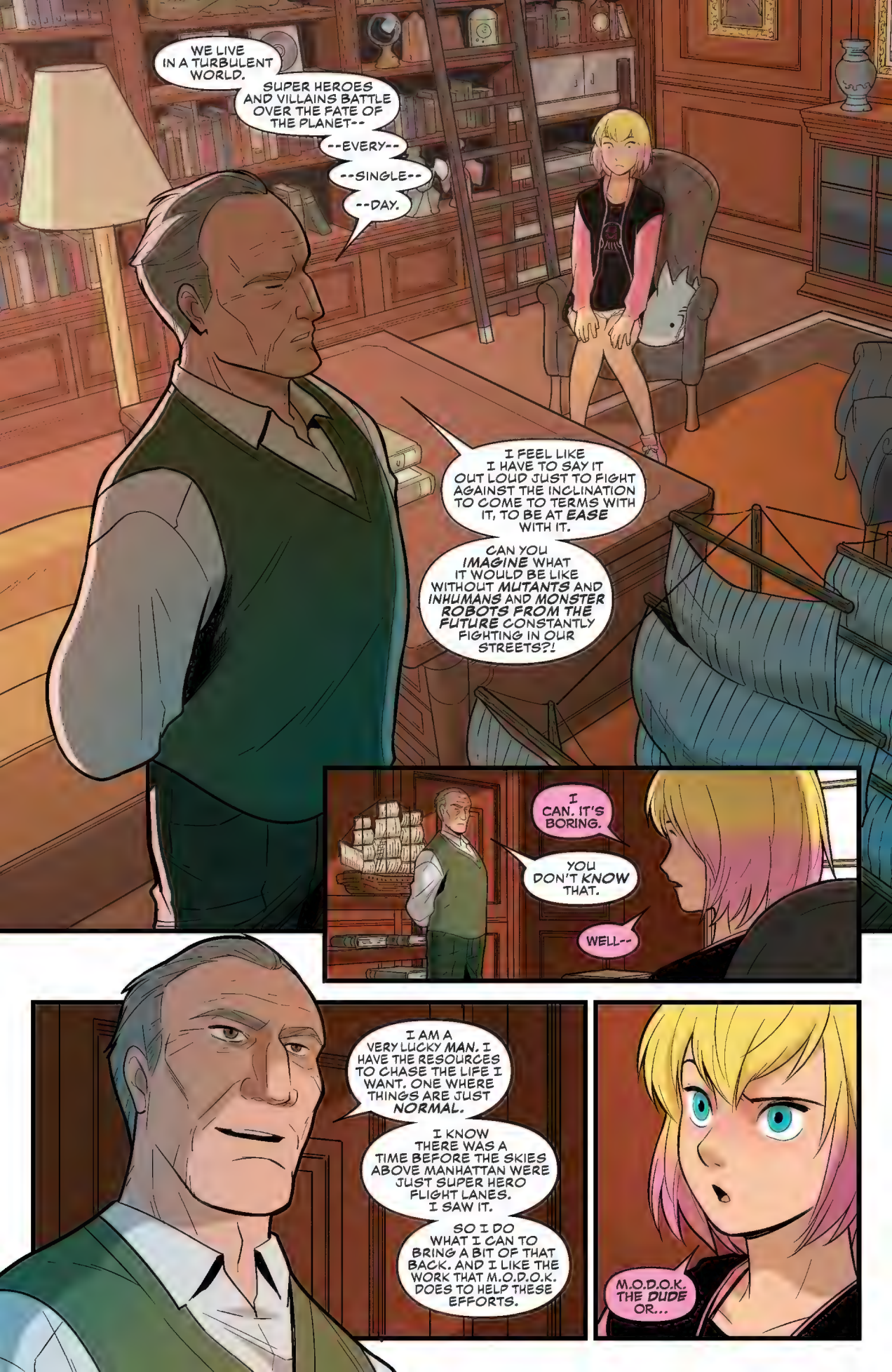

HELLO? IT'S GWEN POOLE? I ASSUME YOU'RE EXPECTING ME?
...OR YOUR DOORBELL HAS A *CONSIDERABLE* SECURITY FLAW?
HMM...
LET'S SEE, LET'S SEE. WE'VE NEVER SEEN THE *HOST* ON THE VIDEO CALLS. WE'RE BASICALLY IN THE MIDDLE OF *NOWHERE, NEW YORK*. SPOOKY DOOR. EMPTY HOUSE. *FINE* DECORATIONS.
IT'S DRACULA. I'M CALLING IT. WE'RE MEETING DRACULA.
WHAT DO YOU SAY, CECIL?
DO YOUR *GHOST* SENSES PICK UP ANYTHING ON THE *KING OF THE VAMPIRES*?
...
CECIL. STOP BEING INVISIBLE.

NO, GWEN. I DO NOT SENSE DRACULA.
I DON'T KNOW IF I COULD SENSE DRACULA.
LISTEN, I DON'T EVEN THINK I SHOULD BE HERE RIGHT NOW.
OH, NO? WHAT ELSE YOU GOT GOING ON? YOU'RE DEAD! HA H--
TOO SOON. TOTALLY.
UH.
WE ALL HAVE OUR OWN WAYS OF GRIEVING.
HAVE I SAID I'M GLAD YOU'RE BACK? I'M SO GLAD.
YEAH! YOU HAVE! AND, I GUESS, ME TOO?
BUT, LIKE, THIS IS WEIRD.
I GET IT, MAN.
I DON'T THINK YOU DO. IT--
--IS WEIRD.
I MEAN, MY FAMILY BACK IN WEST VIRGINIA, THEY STILL THINK I'M MISSING. THEY PROBABLY THINK I'M DEAD.
WELL--
NO.


DEAD DEAD.
SO GO VISIT THEM! SHOW THEM YOUR COOL NEW GHOST POWERS!
I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF I LIKE THE--
AHERM.
YOU!!!

...
I HAVE NO IDEA WHO YOU ARE.
NO, I IMAGINE YOU WOULDN'T. MY NAME IS VINCENT. YOU CAN CALL ME VINCE, OR VINNIE, OR VIN IF YOU LIKE.
YOU'RE SO...
NORMAL.
WELL, THANK YOU.
WHAT A RARE QUALITY TO POSSESS IN THIS CITY OF METAHUMANS AND OTHERWISE, YES?
SPEAKING OF WHICH--
--I DO NOT BELIEVE I INVITED ANY GHASTLY SPECTERS INTO MY HOME.

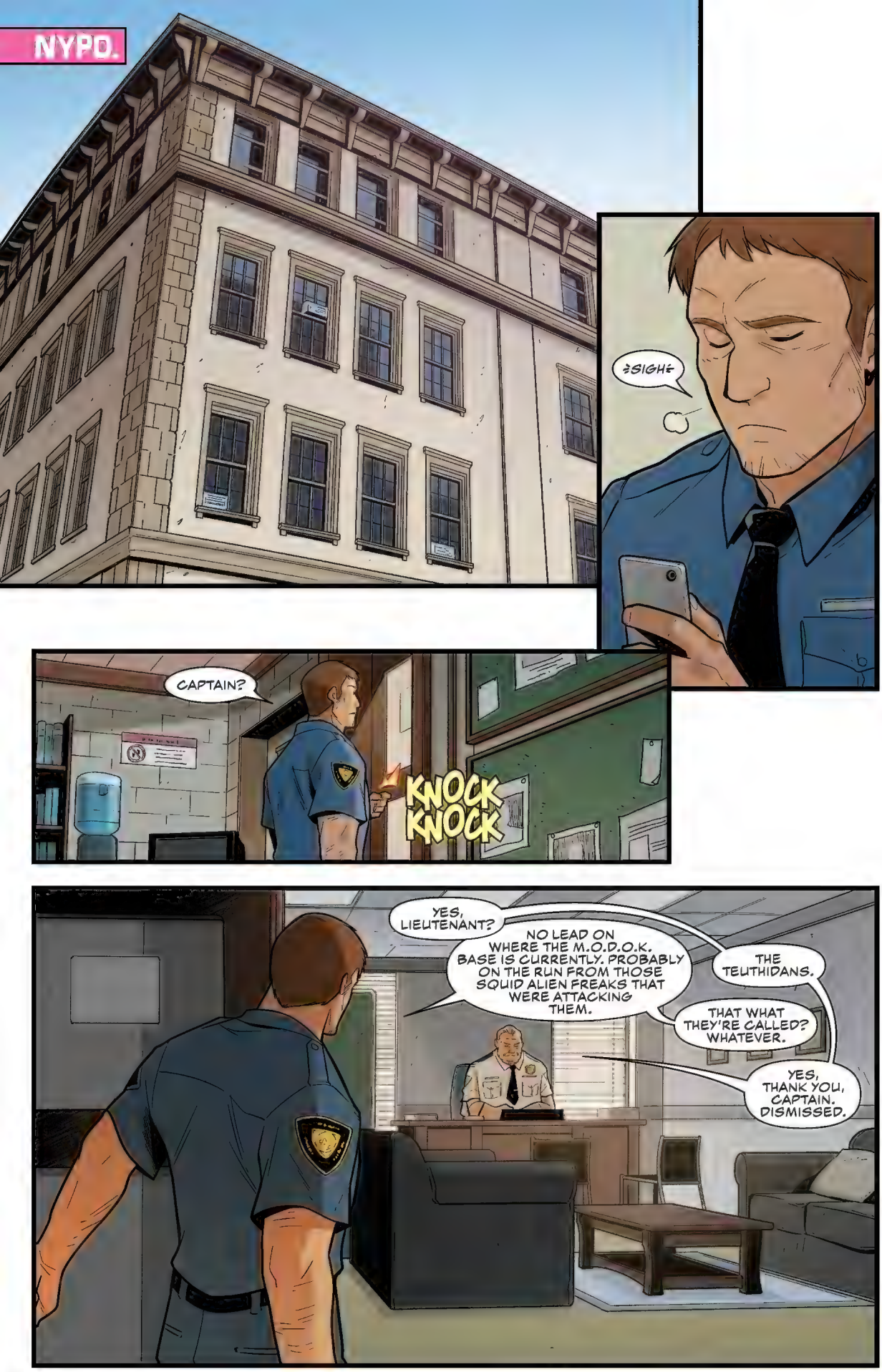
WAIT, WHAT? YOU MEAN CECIL THE FRIENDLY GHOST OVER HERE? HE'S *TOTALLY* COOL.
HE'S WITH ME.
GWEN, IT'S FINE. I GUESS I SHOULD GET USED TO THIS TREATMENT...
...FOR THE REST OF ETERNITY.
YOU MADE IT HERE SAFE. YOU DIDN'T NEED ANY "GHOST HACKS." I'LL SEE YOU BACK AT BASE.
THANK YOU FOR RESPECTING MY WISHES, **WRAITH.** I WISH YOU REST IN PEACE SOON.
THANKS?
WHAT WAS *THAT* ABOUT?
IT IS ABOUT ONE VALUE I HOLD ABOVE ALL ELSE.
THE PEACE OF THE MUNDANE.


WE LIVE IN A TURBULENT WORLD.
SUPER HEROES AND VILLAINS BATTLE OVER THE FATE OF THE PLANET--
--EVERY--
--SINGLE--
--DAY.
I FEEL LIKE I HAVE TO SAY IT OUT LOUD JUST TO FIGHT AGAINST THE INCLINATION TO COME TO TERMS WITH IT, TO BE AT *EASE* WITH IT.
CAN YOU *IMAGINE* WHAT IT WOULD BE LIKE WITHOUT *MUTANTS* AND *INHUMANS* AND *MONSTER ROBOTS FROM THE FUTURE* CONSTANTLY FIGHTING IN OUR STREETS?!
I CAN. IT'S BORING.
YOU DON'T *KNOW* THAT.
WELL--
I AM A VERY LUCKY *MAN.* I HAVE THE RESOURCES TO CHASE THE LIFE I WANT. ONE WHERE THINGS ARE JUST *NORMAL.*
I KNOW THERE WAS A TIME BEFORE THE SKIES ABOVE MANHATTAN WERE JUST SUPER HERO FLIGHT LANES. I SAW IT.
SO I DO WHAT I CAN TO BRING A BIT OF THAT BACK. AND I LIKE THE WORK THAT M.O.D.O.K. DOES TO HELP THESE EFFORTS.
M.O.D.O.K. THE *DUDE* OR...

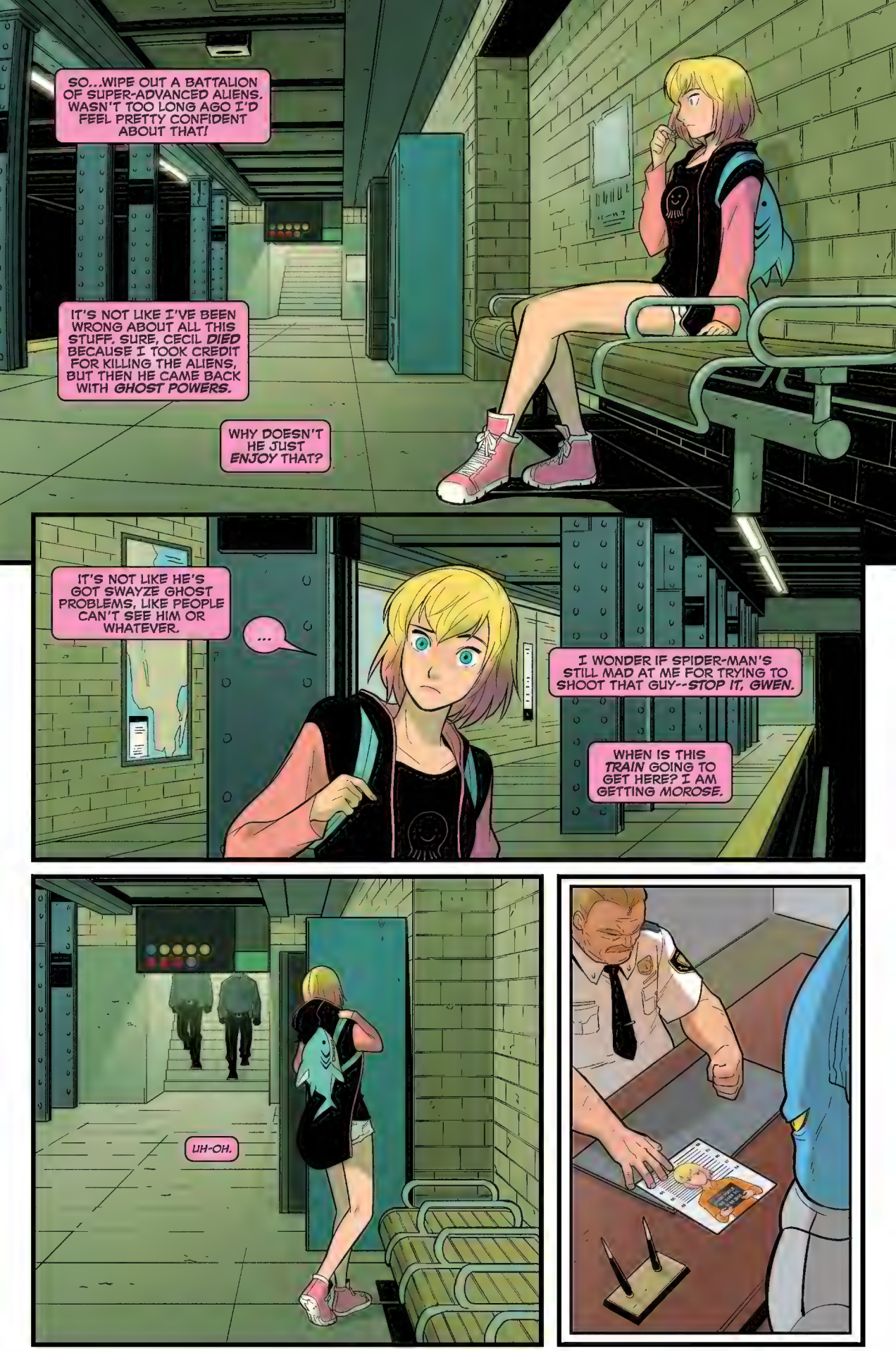
M.O.D.O.K. THE ORGANIZATION. M.O.D.O.K. THE...WHATEVER HE WAS WAS INCREDIBLY DISTASTEFUL TO ME.
I LIKE THE ORGANIZATION BECAUSE YOU'RE ALL NORMAL PEOPLE.
I. UH.
YES. I KNOW YOU HAVE NO SUPER-POWERS. NEITHER DOES GEORGES BATROC. NEITHER DOES MEGA TONY. AND THE "TERRIBLE EYE" IS A VERY NICE YOUNG LADY WHO HAPPENED TO FIND A RATHER POWERFUL MAGICAL HEADPIECE.
AND ALL THE OTHER AGENTS ARE JUST PEOPLE WITH GUNS.
SORRY, DID YOU SAY OTHER AGENTS--
YOU'RE MY PEOPLE. NORMAL PEOPLE.
AND NOW THAT M.O.D.O.K.--
--THE "DUDE"--
--IS GONE, I WANT TO CONTINUE OUR RELATIONSHIP.
ELIMINATE THREATS TO MY PEACEFUL LIFE HERE IN BAY RIDGE.
AND THAT MEANS THE TEUTHIDANS. AGAIN.
OH, THOSE GUYS? THAT'S GONNA BE HARD.
NOT MY PROBLEM! NOT WHILE I'M POURING OUT DUMP TRUCKS OF MONEY FOR THE TROUBLE!
CAN'T ARGUE WITH THAT.
I KNOW.

BACK AT M.O.D.O.K. BASE...
CECIL! YOU'RE BACK! WHERE IS GWEN?!
NEVER MIND. STUPID QUESTION. YOU CAN PASS THROUGH WALLS AND SHE CAN'T. SHE'S TAKING THE ELEVATOR.
NO, SHE'S STILL AT THE MEETING WITH OUR CLIENT.
OH! OKAY, THAT'S GOOD. THAT'S PROBABLY GOOD.
AHA! GHOST FRIEND. MAY I ASK YOU A QUESTION?
UH, SURE?
I HAVE STUDIED THE ARCANA. I HAVE SEEN THE PLANES. I...
...HAVE HARMED MYSELF IN THE PURSUIT OF KNOWLEDGE BEYOND THIS REALM.
BUT THERE IS ONE STATE I CANNOT PIERCE.
TELL ME, WHAT IS THERE AFTER DEATH?
WHOA! AH...
...I DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING. IT WAS LIKE SLEEPING.
SO, THERE IS NOTHING.
SORRY...
HA HA!
I THOUGHT THE REALMS BEYOND CORPOREAL LIFE WERE SIMPLY A SEA OF INSANITY, WHERE ANCIENT BEINGS TELL SECRET PLOTS IN A LANGUAGE THAT WOULD TURN US TO JELLY SHOULD IT CROSS OUR EARDRUMS...
BUT YOU DIDN'T SEE THAT! SERIOUSLY, BIG RELIEF. ADDS A LOT TO MY RESEARCH.

BUUZZZZZ
WHAT IS THAT?! THE VIBRATIONS DO ALTER!
IT WAS MY PHONE BUZZING. SERIOUSLY, CHILL.
STUDENT LOAN PEOPLE.
GWEN BETTER GET US A JOB!
HA HA, YES OF COURSE, LIEUTENANT. YOU SHALL GET YOUR DUE BRIBES VERY SOON!
WE AT M.O.D.O.K. CONTINUE TO APPRECIATE ZE NYPD ALLOWING OUR BASE TO MOVE ABOUT WITHOUT INTERFERENCE! EH, WHAT'S THAT?
HA HA NO, OF *COURSE* WE WILL NOT TELL YOU WHERE IT IS NOW. WHAT A GRAND JOKE!
GOODBYE!
GWEN BETTER GET US A JOB.


NYPD.
SIGH
CAPTAIN?
KNOCK KNOCK
YES, LIEUTENANT?
NO LEAD ON WHERE THE M.O.D.O.K. BASE IS CURRENTLY. PROBABLY ON THE RUN FROM THOSE SQUID ALIEN FREAKS THAT WERE ATTACKING THEM.
THE TEUTHIDANS.
THAT WHAT THEY'RE CALLED? WHATEVER.
YES, THANK YOU, CAPTAIN. DISMISSED.

T-CHNKT
HEH, UH, "SQUID ALIEN FREAK" IS A COMPLIMENT HERE.
GOOD.

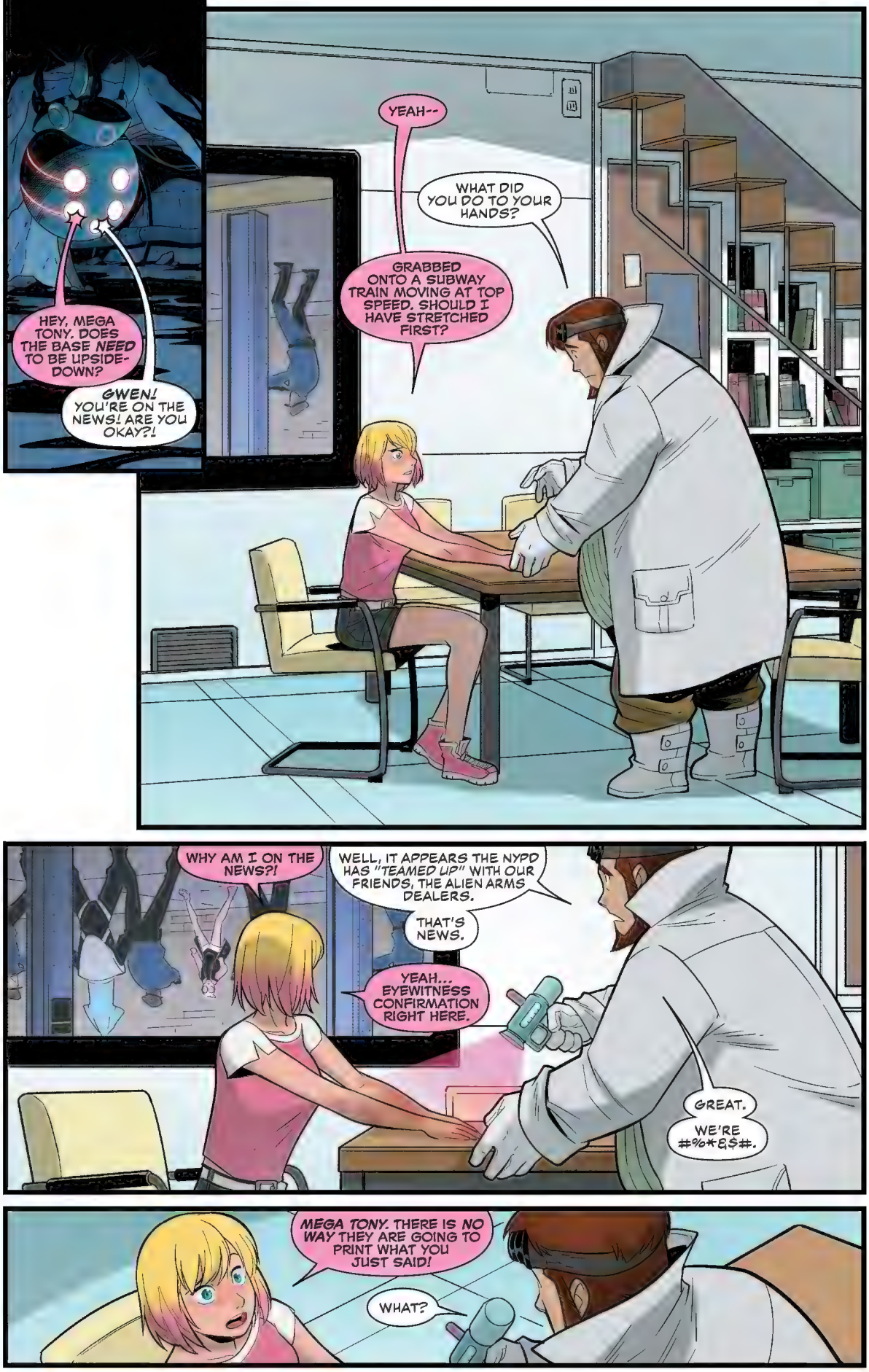

SO...WIPE OUT A BATTALION OF SUPER-ADVANCED ALIENS. WASN'T TOO LONG AGO I'D FEEL PRETTY CONFIDENT ABOUT THAT!
IT'S NOT LIKE I'VE BEEN WRONG ABOUT ALL THIS STUFF. SURE, CECIL *DIED* BECAUSE I TOOK CREDIT FOR KILLING THE ALIENS, BUT THEN HE CAME BACK WITH *GHOST POWERS.*
WHY DOESN'T HE JUST *ENJOY* THAT?
IT'S NOT LIKE HE'S GOT SWAYZE GHOST PROBLEMS, LIKE PEOPLE CAN'T SEE HIM OR WHATEVER.
...
I WONDER IF SPIDER-MAN'S STILL MAD AT ME FOR TRYING TO SHOOT THAT GUY--*STOP IT, GWEN.*
WHEN IS THIS *TRAIN* GOING TO GET HERE? I AM GETTING *MOROSE.*
UH-OH.

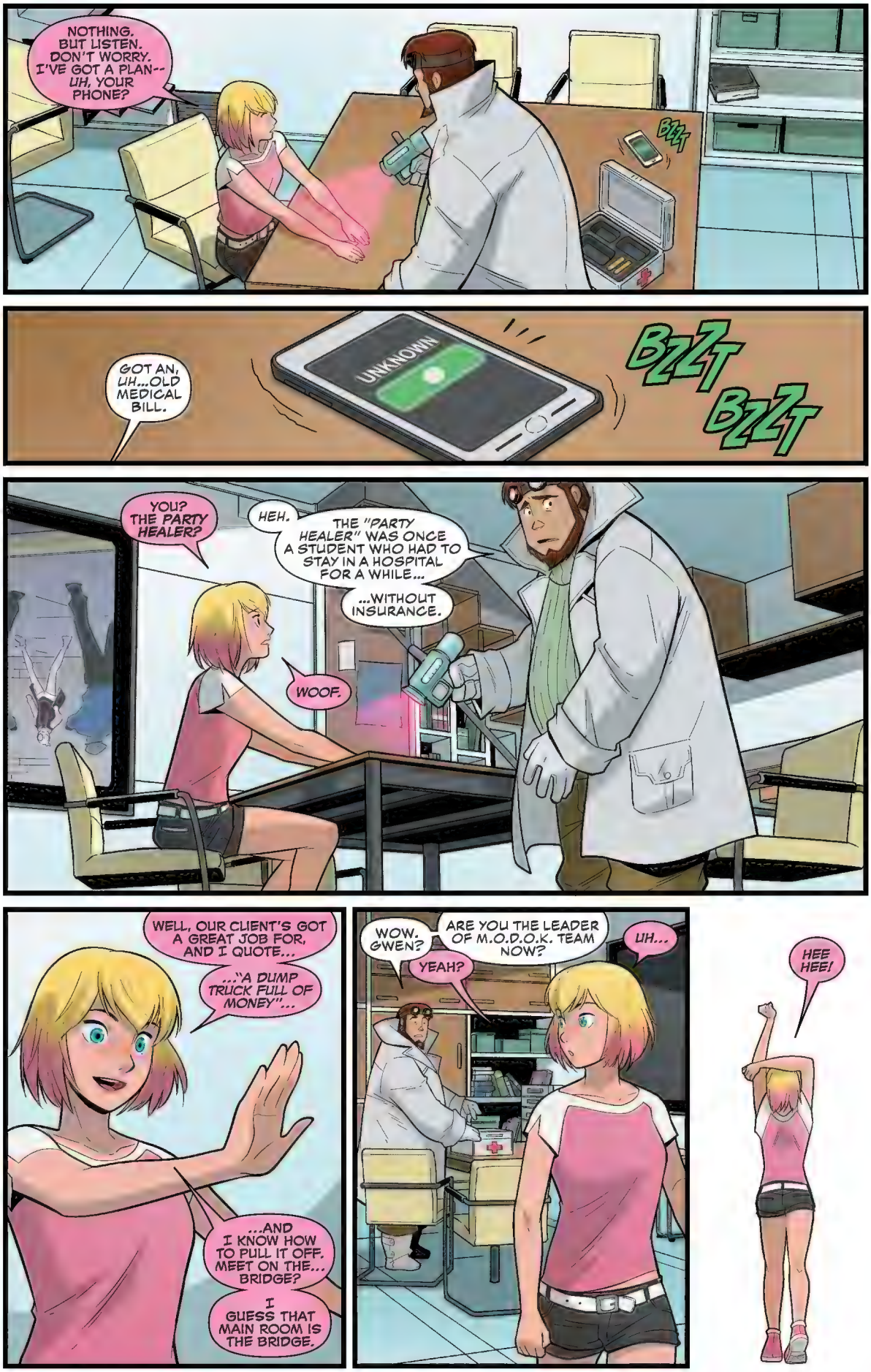
EXIT
UH-OH.
UH-OH.
MBMBLMBL
CHHK
UH-OH.
EXIT
MISS?

I'M NOT GOING BACK TO JAIL!
LET'S DANCE, BABIES!
HANDS ON YOUR HEAD.
N-NO...
OH, COOL. THEM, TOO. SUPER COOL.
EXIT
SURE WISH I HAD SOME TIME TO THINK ABOUT HOW TO HANDLE THIS!
LIKE... A MONTH, LET'S SAY.

THE NYPD'S TEAMED UP WITH ALIEN ARMS DEALERS?* WHO WERE BLOWING UP THE CITY CHASING A PIG RECENTLY?
*SEE GWENPOOL #1. EVEN THE AVENGERS SAID THEY WERE BAD NEWS!
YOU PUT THAT PIG THERE! YOU DID IT.**
**I KNEW THE ALIENS COULDN'T TELL ME APART FROM A PIG IN THE SAME COSTUME. SEE LAST ISSUE. IT WAS GREAT.
WHY DO YOU THINK THEY'RE ALL ARMS DEALERS, HUH? EVERY SQUID GUY'S A BAD GUY? PRETTY NARROW VIEW.***
***AH! MY OWN "ALIENS CAN'T TELL OTHERS APART" LOGIC USED AGAINST ME! BLAST!
YEAH. SO IT SEEMS LIKE YOU DON'T JUST TRY TO KILL UNARMED KIDS IN THEIR HOMES.**** YOU KILLED A LOT OF THEIR PEOPLE, TOO.
****UGH. SEE GWENPOOL #6 IF YOU HAVE TO. IT WAS...NOT GREAT.
RRRMMBLE
LISTEN, PUT DOWN THE KARATE HANDS. YOU'RE UNDER ARREST.
OH HELL NO.
HEY! THIS IS MY STOP!
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THIS QUEENS BOUND R TRAIN WILL NOT BE MAKING ANY STOPS TILL WE REACH MANHATTAN--
OH, COME ON!
BOO!
--BECAUSE THERE ARE DAMN SQUID ALIENS ON THE PLATFORM.
SO WHAT?
THIS IS NEW YORK.

UH, OR THEY TAKE YOU? I'M NOT SURE WHAT THE DEAL WAS, AND THEY DON'T SPEAK A TON OF ENGLISH--
OKAY, WELL, FIGURE THAT OUT AND WHEN YOU DO, NEVER GET BACK TO ME ABOUT IT.
BYEEEEE!
HEY!
WHOA, WHOA! NO! YOU CAN'T JUST SHOOT A TRAIN FULL OF PEOPLE!
HRMPH.
HOONNNK HOONNNK
I HAVE NEVER SAID THIS BEFORE, AND I WILL NEVER SAY IT AGAIN:
THANK YOU, MTA.

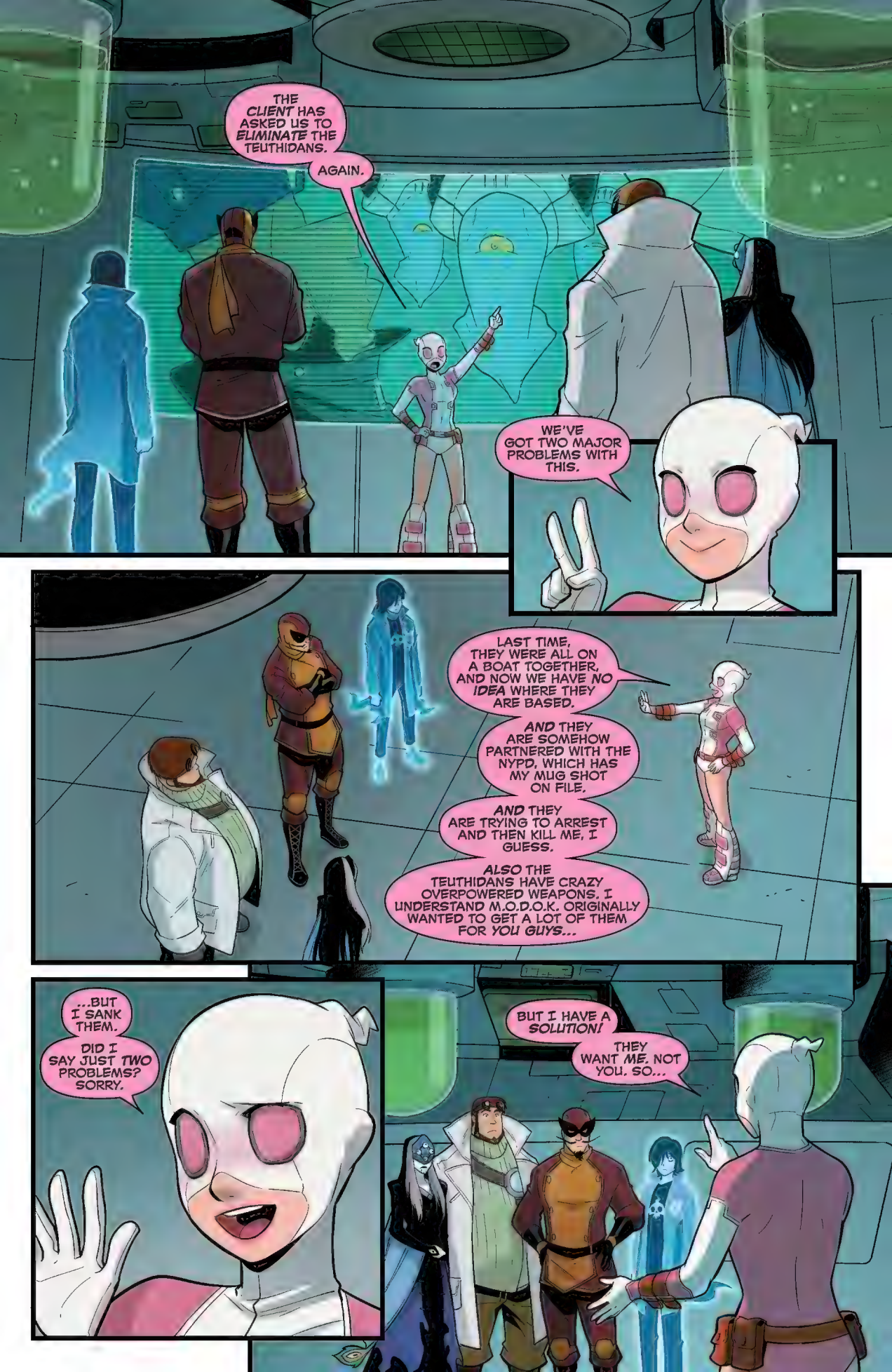

HEY, MEGA TONY. DOES THE BASE NEED TO BE UPSIDE-DOWN?
GWEN! YOU'RE ON THE NEWS! ARE YOU OKAY?!
YEAH--
WHAT DID YOU DO TO YOUR HANDS?
GRABBED ONTO A SUBWAY TRAIN MOVING AT TOP SPEED. SHOULD I HAVE STRETCHED FIRST?
WHY AM I ON THE NEWS?!
WELL, IT APPEARS THE NYPD HAS "TEAMED UP" WITH OUR FRIENDS, THE ALIEN ARMS DEALERS.
THAT'S NEWS.
YEAH... EYEWITNESS CONFIRMATION RIGHT HERE.
GREAT. WE'RE #%*&$#.
MEGA TONY. THERE IS NO WAY THEY ARE GOING TO PRINT WHAT YOU JUST SAID!
WHAT?


NOTHING. BUT LISTEN. DON'T WORRY. I'VE GOT A PLAN-- UH, YOUR PHONE?
BZZT
GOT AN, UH...OLD MEDICAL BILL.
UNKNOWN
BZZT
BZZT
YOU? THE PARTY HEALER?
HEH.
THE "PARTY HEALER" WAS ONCE A STUDENT WHO HAD TO STAY IN A HOSPITAL FOR A WHILE...
...WITHOUT INSURANCE.
WOOF.
WELL, OUR CLIENT'S GOT A GREAT JOB FOR, AND I QUOTE...
..."A DUMP TRUCK FULL OF MONEY"...
...AND I KNOW HOW TO PULL IT OFF. MEET ON THE... BRIDGE?
I GUESS THAT MAIN ROOM IS THE BRIDGE.
WOW. GWEN?
ARE YOU THE LEADER OF M.O.D.O.K. TEAM NOW?
YEAH?
UH...
HEE HEE!

HA HA HA HA!
UH, TERRIBLE EYE?
HEY, CECIL.
AND-- YOU? WHO ARE YOU?
OH, MY GOSH, GWEN! IT'S ME! SARAH!
THE "TERRIBLE EYE."
WE NEVER SEE EACH OTHER OUT OF COSTUME, DO WE?
N-NO?
CECIL!
SHE DOESN'T SEEM CRAZY.

HA HA, I KNOW. I KNOW.
IT'S THE MAGIC.
GWEN, THERE'S A WHOLE MULTIVERSE OF WHAT WE DON'T KNOW OUT THERE. AND "THE TERRIBLE EYE"...
...MY HEADPIECE...
...IT GIVES ME A GREATER AWARENESS OF IT.
SARAH AND I WERE TALKING BECAUSE SHE DOES A LOT OF MAGICAL RESEARCH...
...BUT SHE HASN'T MET MANY GHOSTS BEFORE.
OF COURSE, NEITHER HAVE I!
HA HA HA HA!
HA HA HA!
HA.

I SHOULDN'T LEAVE THE MASK OFF FOR TOO LONG. I START TO FORGET THINGS.
BUT I NEED A BREAK SOMETIMES, YOU KNOW? IT SHOWS ME SO MUCH, I CAN BARELY PROCESS IT. IT'S WHY I COME OFF A BIT...
YOU KNOW.
YEAH, I REMEMBER YOU WERE HAVING A CONVERSATION A WHILE AGO WITH A ROCK.
HA HA! YEAH, UH, HOW DO I EXPLAIN IT? THE ROCKS. THEY...
...
I DON'T REALLY KNOW AT THE MOMENT! I JUST DON'T HAVE THE FACULTY! MAYBE WHEN I'M BACK "IN CHARACTER."
IT'S OKAY. I DON'T CARE ABOUT ROCKS.
LISTEN. WE GOT A JOB. I GOT A PLAN. HOUSE MEETING.


THE CLIENT HAS ASKED US TO ELIMINATE THE TEUTHIDANS.
AGAIN.
WE'VE GOT TWO MAJOR PROBLEMS WITH THIS.
LAST TIME, THEY WERE ALL ON A BOAT TOGETHER. AND NOW WE HAVE NO IDEA WHERE THEY ARE BASED.
AND THEY ARE SOMEHOW PARTNERED WITH THE NYPD, WHICH HAS MY MUG SHOT ON FILE.
AND THEY ARE TRYING TO ARREST AND THEN KILL ME, I GUESS.
ALSO THE TEUTHIDANS HAVE CRAZY OVERPOWERED WEAPONS. I UNDERSTAND M.O.D.O.K. ORIGINALLY WANTED TO GET A LOT OF THEM FOR YOU GUYS...
...BUT I SANK THEM.
DID I SAY JUST TWO PROBLEMS? SORRY.
BUT I HAVE A SOLUTION!
THEY WANT ME, NOT YOU. SO...

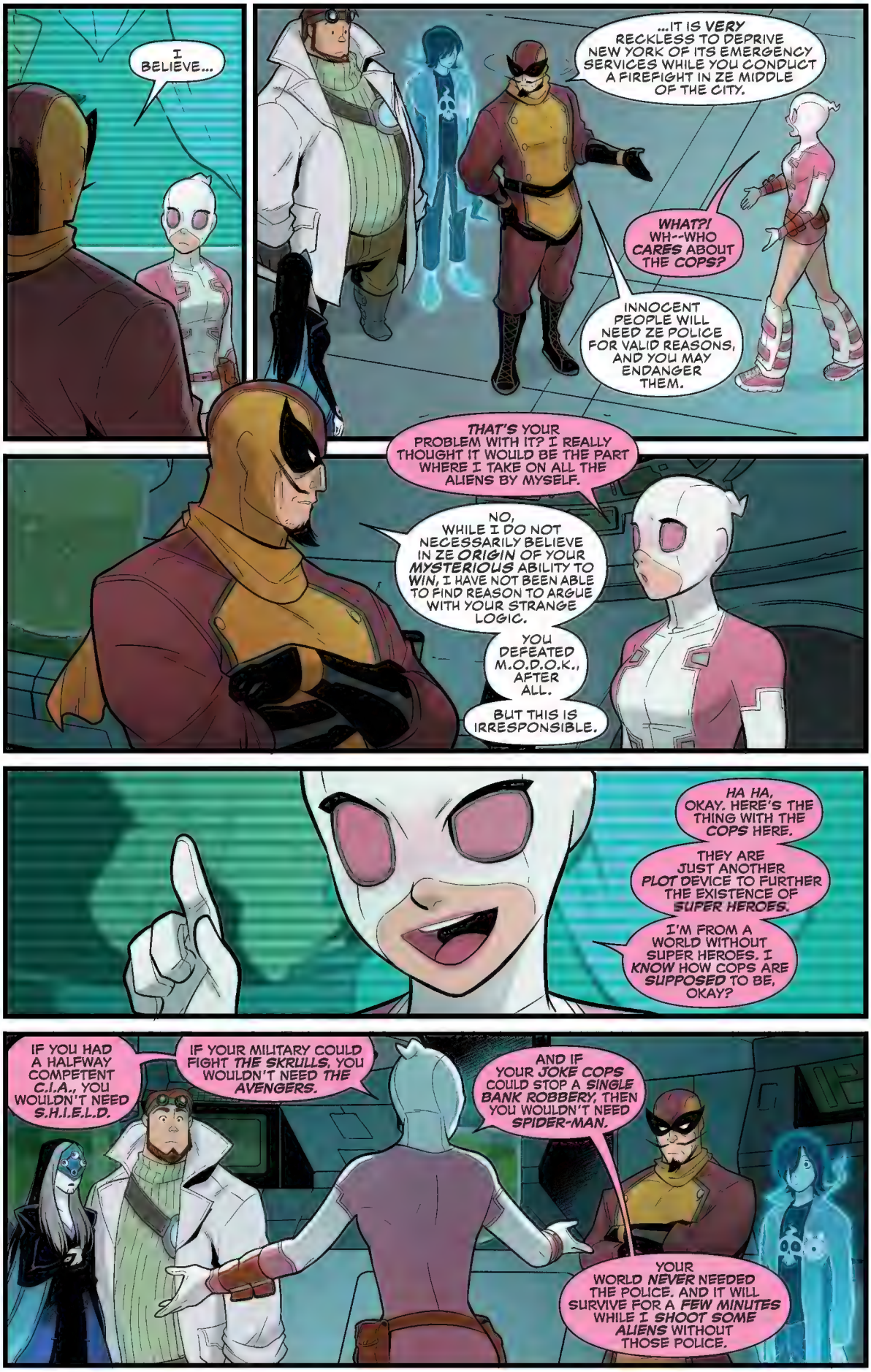
"...HERE'S THE PLAN!"
HEY, SQUID BOYZ! I'M PLACING AN ORDER FOR CALAMARI.
BRING IT TO TIMES SQUARE.
AND IN CASE THIS DOESN'T TRANSLATE:
I WANT YOU TO COME TO TIMES SQUARE SO I CAN KILL YOU ALL.
I DON'T THINK I'M GONNA EAT THEM. THAT WAS A GROSS THREAT.
I SEE SOME FAULTS WITH THIS "PLAN."
THAT'S NOT ALL OF IT.
I DON'T WANT TO FIGHT THE POLICE! AND I DON'T WANT THEM TO ARREST ME!
'CAUSE IF I GO DO THAT, THE POLICE ARE GONNA COME DOWN ON ME, TOO!
SO, YOU GUYS ARE GOING TO MAKE SURE THEY DON'T SHOW UP.

HOW SO?
FEEL FREE TO IMPROVISE WITH THIS, BUT YOU, BATROC...I WAS THINKING...
UN.
DEUX.
TROIS.
AH! TOO MANY DELEGATES TO COUNT!
I HAVE HUMILIATED ZE UNITED NATIONS!
AND SO MUST BID YOU ADIEU.
VIVE LA FRANCE!
FRANCE HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS.
France

STOP THAT MOST UNLAWFUL MAN!
YES! WE MUST DEDICATE ALL OUR FORCES TO CHASING HIM!
HA HA! I LOVE TO LEAP!
AH, I--
I KNOW IT'S NOT ENOUGH. THAT'S JUST THE START, WHEN CECIL...
...IS GOING TO GHOST HACK INTO POLICE COMPUTERS AND MAKE IT LOOK LIKE A CRIME WAVE HAS GRIPPED THE CITY!
ERROR
FROM STATEN ISLAND TO THE BRONX! ALL KINDS OF FAKE STUFF! WHAT DO THE POLICE DO? HALF OF THEM ARE NOW CHASING THE MYSTERIOUS KICKER OF THE UNITED NATIONS...
WHICH... OKAY. IT COULD BE FUN.
...BUT CRIME IS EVERYWHERE!
AND IT'S ALL BACKED UP...

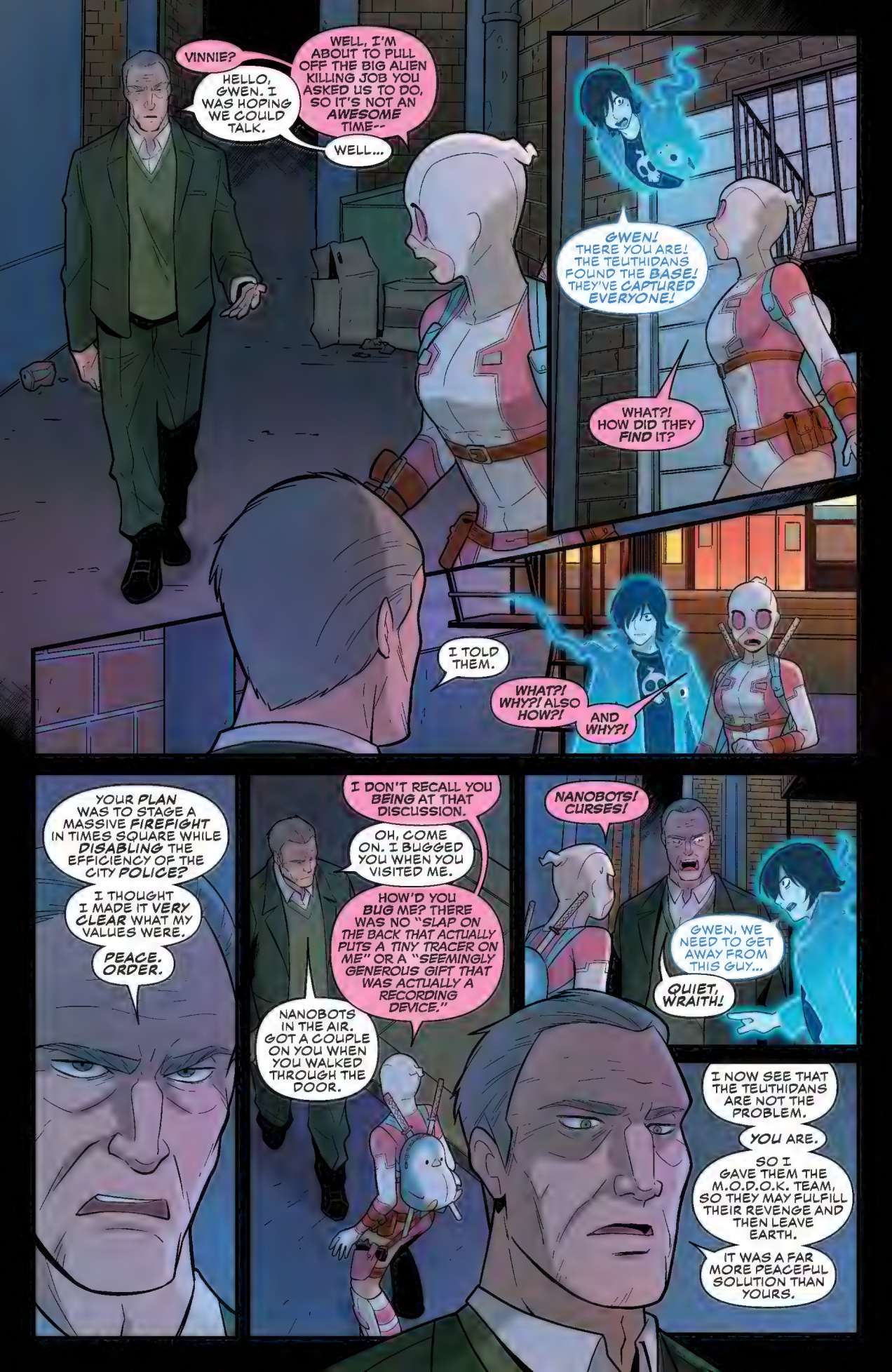
"...BY A WHOLE BUNCH OF ILLUSIONS COURTESY OF THE TERRIBLE EYE."
A BIG FAKE CRIME WAVE ALL AROUND! DISAPPEARING AND APPEARING AT YOUR WHIM!
THAT IS ACTUALLY...QUITE A FEAT. IT WILL BE VERY COSTLY.
DO WHAT YOU CAN!
AND WHILE THE COPS ARE ALL DISTRACTED--
--AND NOTHING BIG ENOUGH TO ATTRACT AN ACTUAL SUPER HERO, MIND YOU--

"--I'M GOING TO BLOW UP ALL THE TEUTHIDANS."
MEGA TONY'S GONNA BE NEARBY TO KEEP ME HEALED AND BUFFED.
WOW. UH--
WELL, OKAY, THAT IS ACTUALLY MY FUNCTION.
WHY ARE YOU SO CONFIDENT IN THIS PLAN?
I'VE GOT SECRET BACKUP PLANS, TOO. I CAN'T REVEAL THEM NOW! THEY'LL ONLY WORK IF THEY ARE REVEALED AT A SUPER COOL DRAMATIC MOMENT.


I BELIEVE...
...IT IS VERY RECKLESS TO DEPRIVE NEW YORK OF ITS EMERGENCY SERVICES WHILE YOU CONDUCT A FIREFIGHT IN ZE MIDDLE OF THE CITY.
WHAT?! WH--WHO CARES ABOUT THE COPS?
INNOCENT PEOPLE WILL NEED ZE POLICE FOR VALID REASONS, AND YOU MAY ENDANGER THEM.
THAT'S YOUR PROBLEM WITH IT? I REALLY THOUGHT IT WOULD BE THE PART WHERE I TAKE ON ALL THE ALIENS BY MYSELF.
NO, WHILE I DO NOT NECESSARILY BELIEVE IN ZE ORIGIN OF YOUR MYSTERIOUS ABILITY TO WIN, I HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO FIND REASON TO ARGUE WITH YOUR STRANGE LOGIC.
YOU DEFEATED M.O.D.O.K., AFTER ALL.
BUT THIS IS IRRESPONSIBLE.
HA HA, OKAY. HERE'S THE THING WITH THE COPS HERE.
THEY ARE JUST ANOTHER PLOT DEVICE TO FURTHER THE EXISTENCE OF SUPER HEROES.
I'M FROM A WORLD WITHOUT SUPER HEROES. I KNOW HOW COPS ARE SUPPOSED TO BE, OKAY?
IF YOU HAD A HALFWAY COMPETENT C.I.A., YOU WOULDN'T NEED S.H.I.E.L.D.
IF YOUR MILITARY COULD FIGHT THE SKRULLS, YOU WOULDN'T NEED THE AVENGERS.
AND IF YOUR JOKE COPS COULD STOP A SINGLE BANK ROBBERY, THEN YOU WOULDN'T NEED SPIDER-MAN.
YOUR WORLD NEVER NEEDED THE POLICE. AND IT WILL SURVIVE FOR A FEW MINUTES WHILE I SHOOT SOME ALIENS WITHOUT THOSE POLICE.

NO ARGUMENTS? GREAT! WHAT TIME IS IT?
UH, IT'S--
GAME TIME, HOOAH!
YOU'RE NOT THE HENCHMAN ANYMORE.
YOU'RE FACING A HORDE OF ALIENS WITH SUPER GUNS. JUST YOU.
YOU'RE THE HERO.
HEROES DON'T DIE THAT WAY. THEY WIN.
HOOO.
OKAY.

CECIL, PUT UP THE VIDEO.
OKAY, SQUID GUYS, I WANT...
...FRIED SQUID--
CRAP, THAT WENT WAY BETTER IN MY HEA--
WHAT?! COPS!
COPS! THERE ARE COPS? WHAT'S GOING ON, TEAM?!
TONY?! EYE?! BATROC?!
ARE YOU ALL JUST LATE?
AH!
NO VIDEO, EITHER. CECIL, ARE YOU THERE?


VINNIE?
HELLO, GWEN. I WAS HOPING WE COULD TALK.
WELL, I'M ABOUT TO PULL OFF THE BIG ALIEN KILLING JOB YOU ASKED US TO DO, SO IT'S NOT AN AWESOME TIME--
WELL...
GWEN! THERE YOU ARE! THE TEUTHIDANS FOUND THE BASE! THEY'VE CAPTURED EVERYONE!
WHAT?! HOW DID THEY FIND IT?
I TOLD THEM.
WHAT?! WHY?! ALSO HOW?!
AND WHY?!
YOUR PLAN WAS TO STAGE A MASSIVE FIREFIGHT IN TIMES SQUARE WHILE DISABLING THE EFFICIENCY OF THE CITY POLICE?
I THOUGHT I MADE IT VERY CLEAR WHAT MY VALUES WERE.
PEACE. ORDER.
I DON'T RECALL YOU BEING AT THAT DISCUSSION.
OH, COME ON. I BUGGED YOU WHEN YOU VISITED ME.
HOW'D YOU BUG ME? THERE WAS NO "SLAP ON THE BACK THAT ACTUALLY PUTS A TINY TRACER ON ME" OR A "SEEMINGLY GENEROUS GIFT THAT WAS ACTUALLY A RECORDING DEVICE."
NANOBOTS IN THE AIR. GOT A COUPLE ON YOU WHEN YOU WALKED THROUGH THE DOOR.
NANOBOTS! CURSES!
GWEN, WE NEED TO GET AWAY FROM THIS GUY...
QUIET, WRAITH!
I NOW SEE THAT THE TEUTHIDANS ARE NOT THE PROBLEM.
YOU ARE.
SO I GAVE THEM THE M.O.D.O.K. TEAM, SO THEY MAY FULFILL THEIR REVENGE AND THEN LEAVE EARTH.
IT WAS A FAR MORE PEACEFUL SOLUTION THAN YOURS.

BUT I THOUGHT THEY WERE MAD AT ME, NOT THE TEAM.
OH, THEY HATE ALL OF YOU. AND I'LL BE HANDING YOU OVER AS WELL. BUT FIRST...
...I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT THIS WORLD WITHOUT SUPER HEROES YOU COME FROM.
THAT SOUNDS MARVELOUS.
NO...
BLAM
AH!
...I THINK I'M GOING TO SAVE MY FRIENDS.

COME ON, CECIL!
YEAH, LET'S--
HNF!
HUH?
UH, ARE YOU RIGOR MORTISING ME RIGHT NOW?
OR I DIDN'T KILL YOU AND YOU'VE GOT, LIKE, SCARED-MOM-LEVEL ADRENALIN HAPPENING?
YOU...

FOOL!
WH--
WHAT?!
OH, NO...

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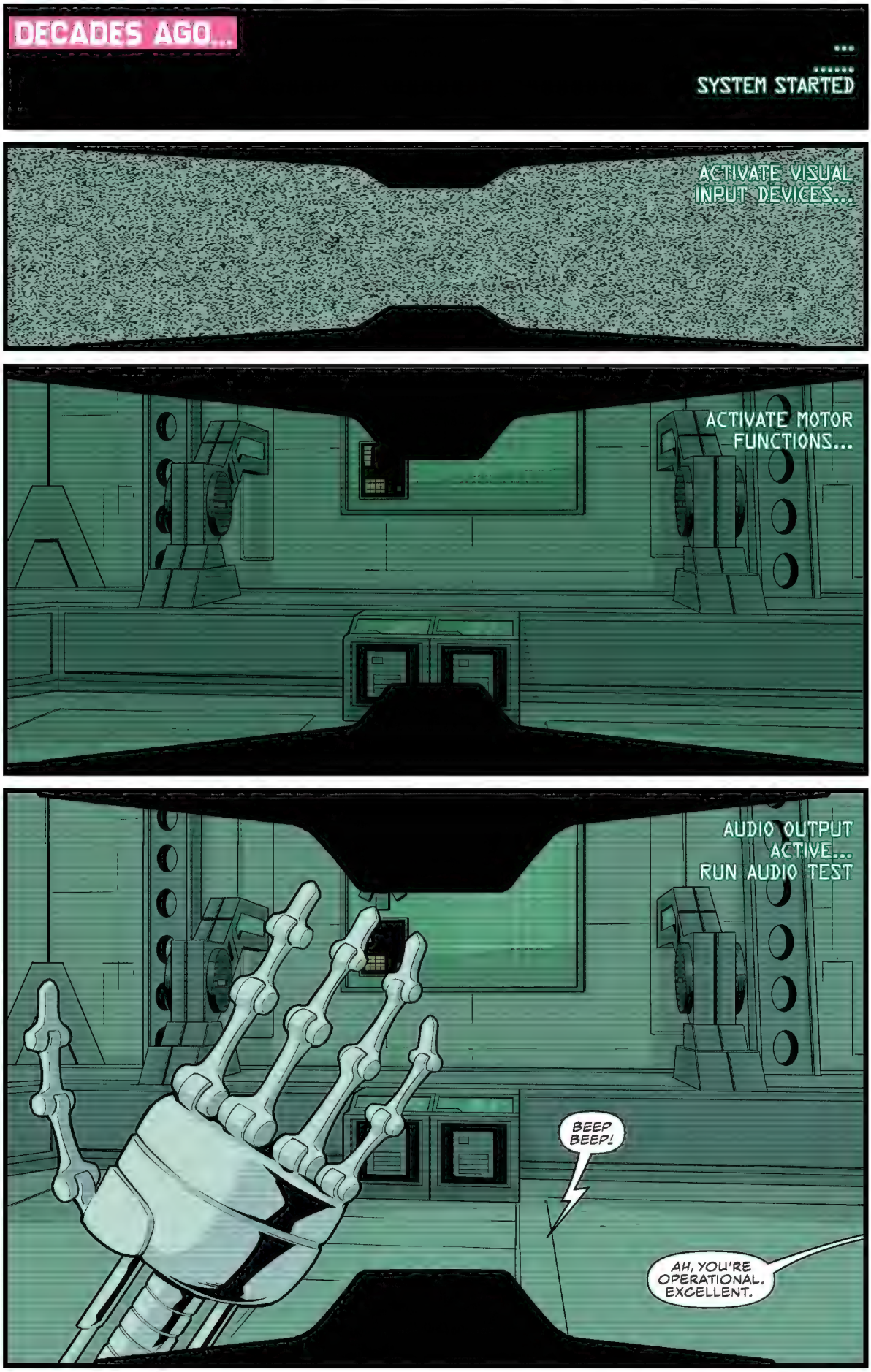
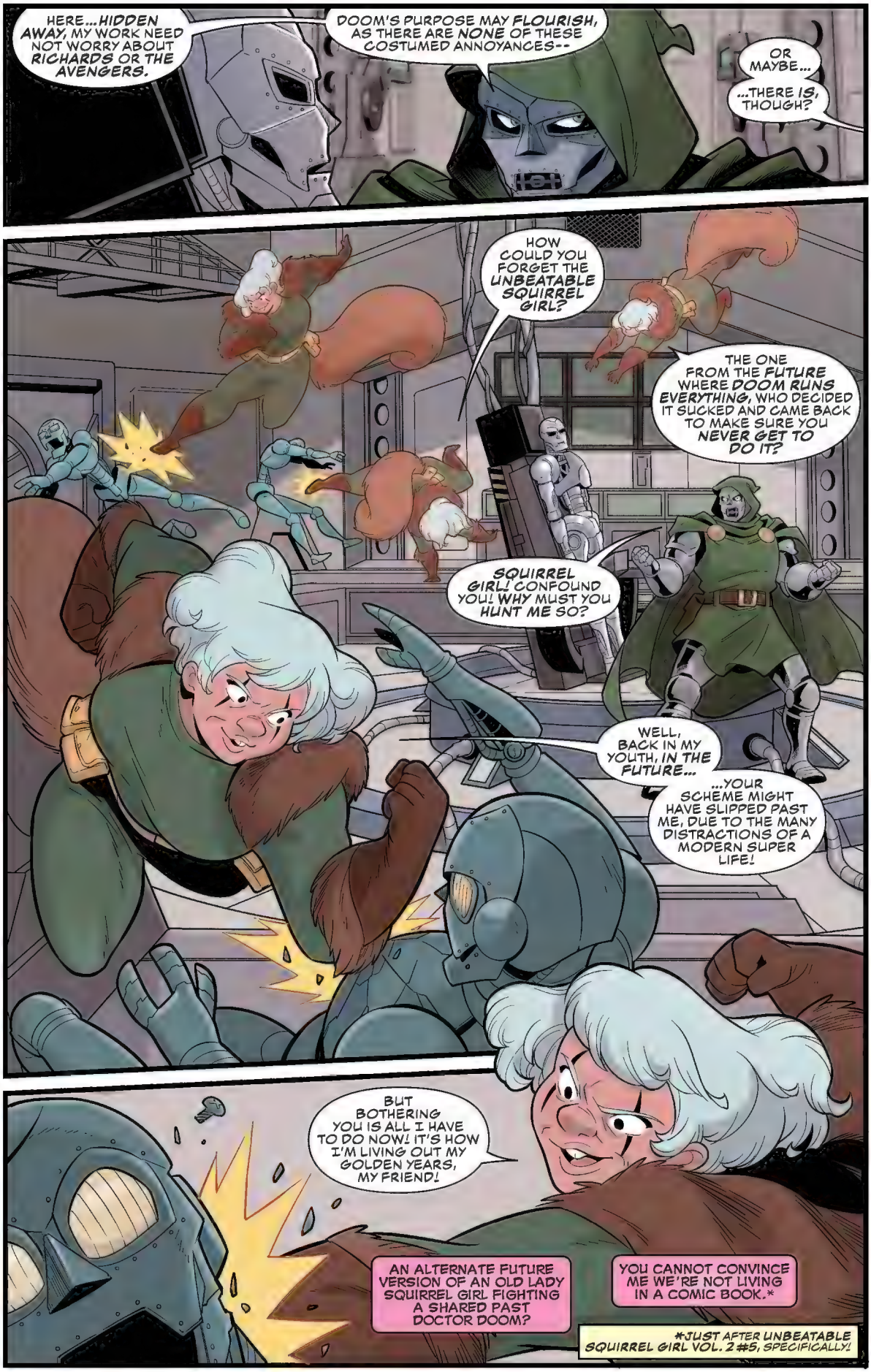
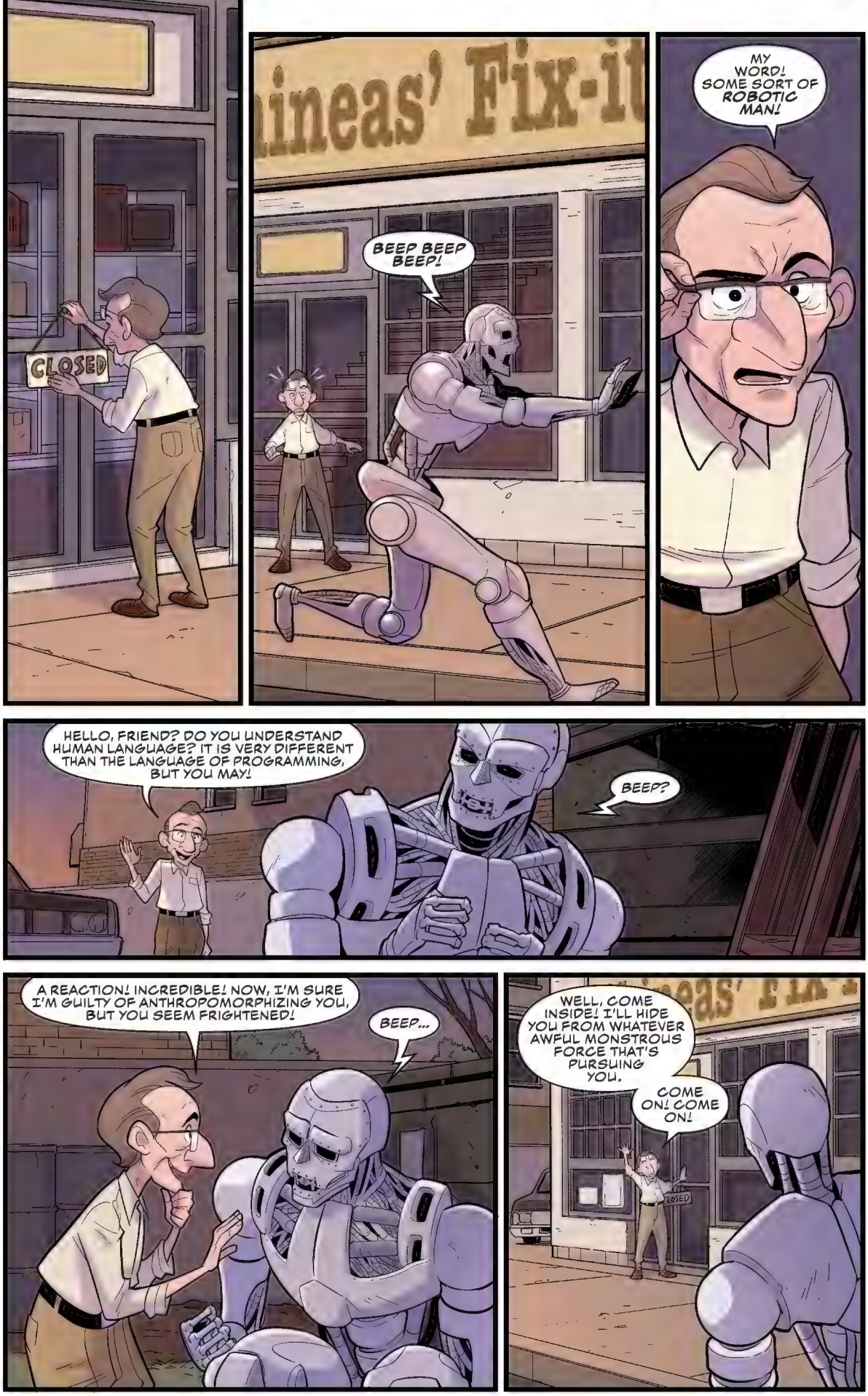
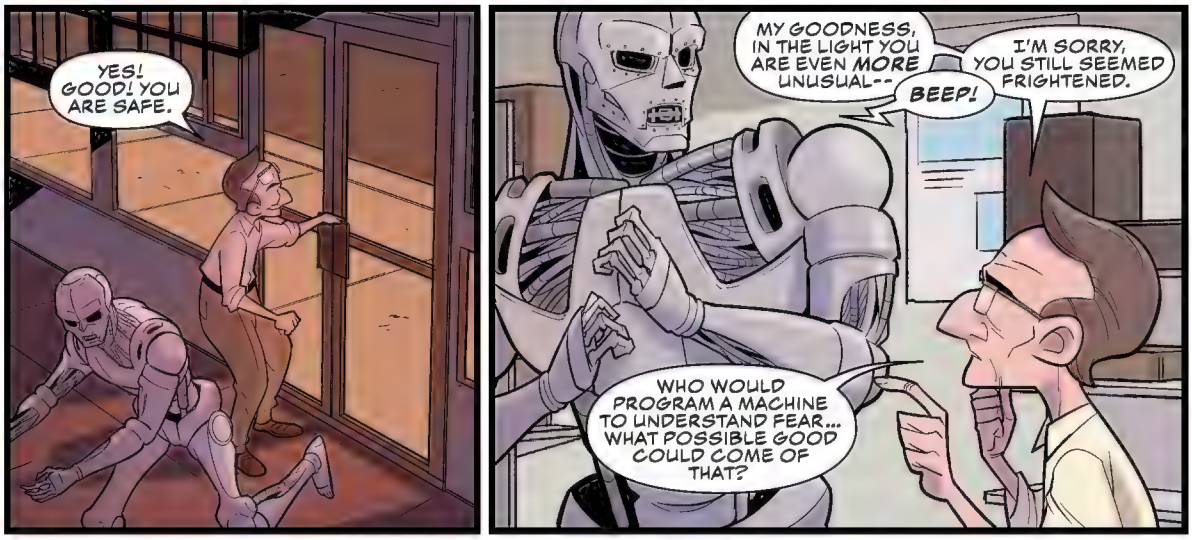

DECADES AGO...
...
.....
SYSTEM STARTED
ACTIVATE VISUAL INPUT DEVICES...
ACTIVATE MOTOR FUNCTIONS...
AUDIO OUTPUT ACTIVE... RUN AUDIO TEST
BEEP BEEP!
AH, YOU'RE OPERATIONAL. EXCELLENT.

I, DOCTOR VICTOR VON DOOM, WELCOME YOU INTO A GLORIOUS EXISTENCE!
FOR YOU ARE A CHILD OF DOOM!
AND YOU ARE BLESSED TO CARRY OUT ALL DOOM WOULD WISH IN THIS WORLD!
FINALLY, I AM ABLE TO CRAFT A DOOMBOT WORTHY OF DOOM'S OWN BRILLIANCE.
TRUE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE. THE NEXT STEP IN THE GLORY OF DOOM'S ARMY!
BEEP?
IT MEANS YOU DON'T HAVE TO SWEEP THE FLOORS LIKE THE OTHER ONES.

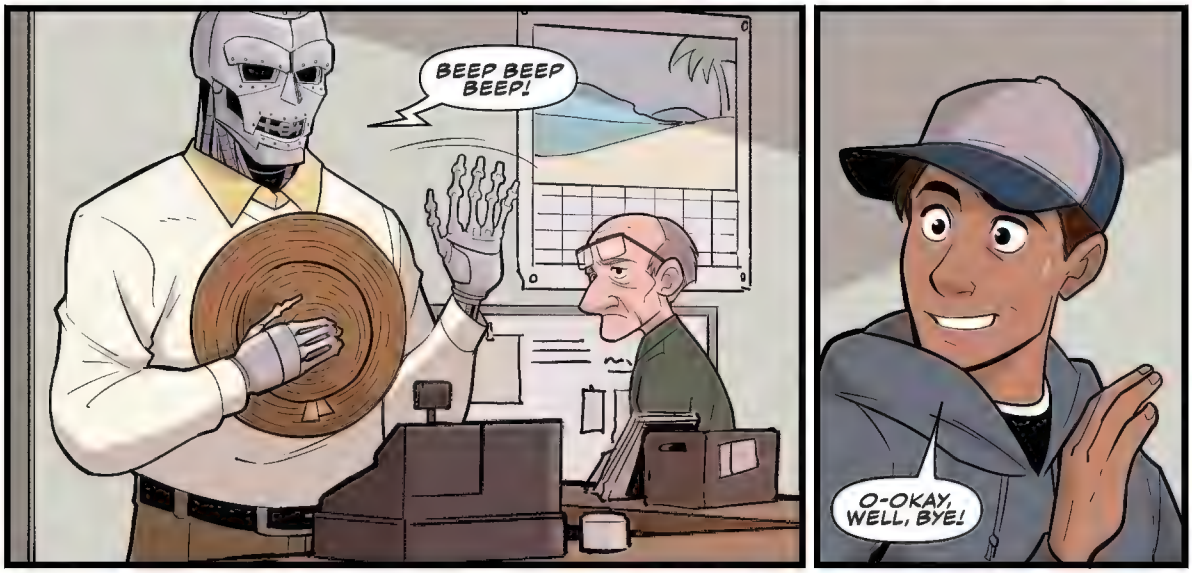

HERE...HIDDEN AWAY, MY WORK NEED NOT WORRY ABOUT RICHARDS OR THE AVENGERS.
DOOM'S PURPOSE MAY FLOURISH, AS THERE ARE NONE OF THESE COSTUMED ANNOYANCES--
OR MAYBE...
...THERE IS, THOUGH?
HOW COULD YOU FORGET THE UNBEATABLE SQUIRREL GIRL?
THE ONE FROM THE FUTURE WHERE DOOM RUNS EVERYTHING, WHO DECIDED IT SUCKED AND CAME BACK TO MAKE SURE YOU NEVER GET TO DO IT?
SQUIRREL GIRL! CONFOUND YOU! WHY MUST YOU HUNT ME SO?
WELL, BACK IN MY YOUTH, IN THE FUTURE...
...YOUR SCHEME MIGHT HAVE SLIPPED PAST ME, DUE TO THE MANY DISTRACTIONS OF A MODERN SUPER LIFE!
BUT BOTHERING YOU IS ALL I HAVE TO DO NOW! IT'S HOW I'M LIVING OUT MY GOLDEN YEARS, MY FRIEND!
AN ALTERNATE FUTURE VERSION OF AN OLD LADY SQUIRREL GIRL FIGHTING A SHARED PAST DOCTOR DOOM?
YOU CANNOT CONVINCE ME WE'RE NOT LIVING IN A COMIC BOOK.*
*JUST AFTER UNBEATABLE SQUIRREL GIRL VOL. 2 #5, SPECIFICALLY!

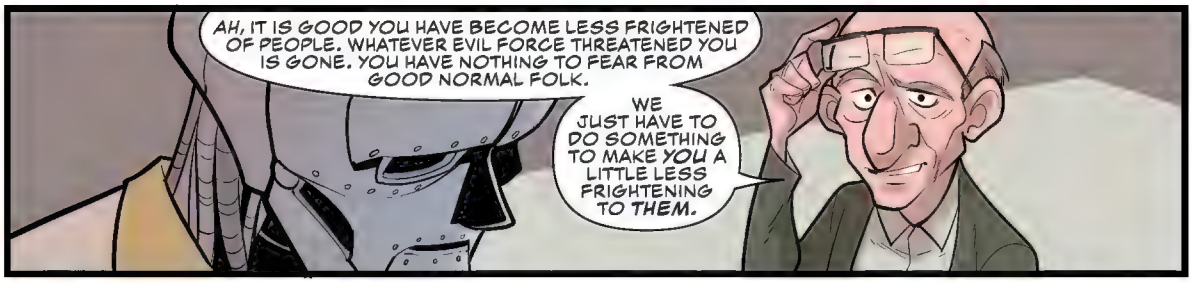
AH! BLAST YOU, SQUIRREL GIRL!
STOP HAVING EVIL PLANS TO CREATE DOOM-TER-NATE REALITIES!
NO.
SERIOUSLY! STOP MAKING ROBOT BUDDIES, AND I'LL STOP RIPPING THEM UP!
BEEP!
RIP UP AS MANY AS YOU LIKE! DOOM WILL NEVER CEASE!
BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP!


CLOSED
ineas' Fix-it
BEEP BEEP BEEP!
MY WORD! SOME SORT OF ROBOTIC MAN!
HELLO, FRIEND? DO YOU UNDERSTAND HUMAN LANGUAGE? IT IS VERY DIFFERENT THAN THE LANGUAGE OF PROGRAMMING, BUT YOU MAY!
BEEP?
A REACTION! INCREDIBLE! NOW, I'M SURE I'M GUILTY OF ANTHROPOMORPHIZING YOU, BUT YOU SEEM FRIGHTENED!
BEEP...
WELL, COME INSIDE! I'LL HIDE YOU FROM WHATEVER AWFUL MONSTROUS FORCE THAT'S PURSUING YOU.
COME ON! COME ON!

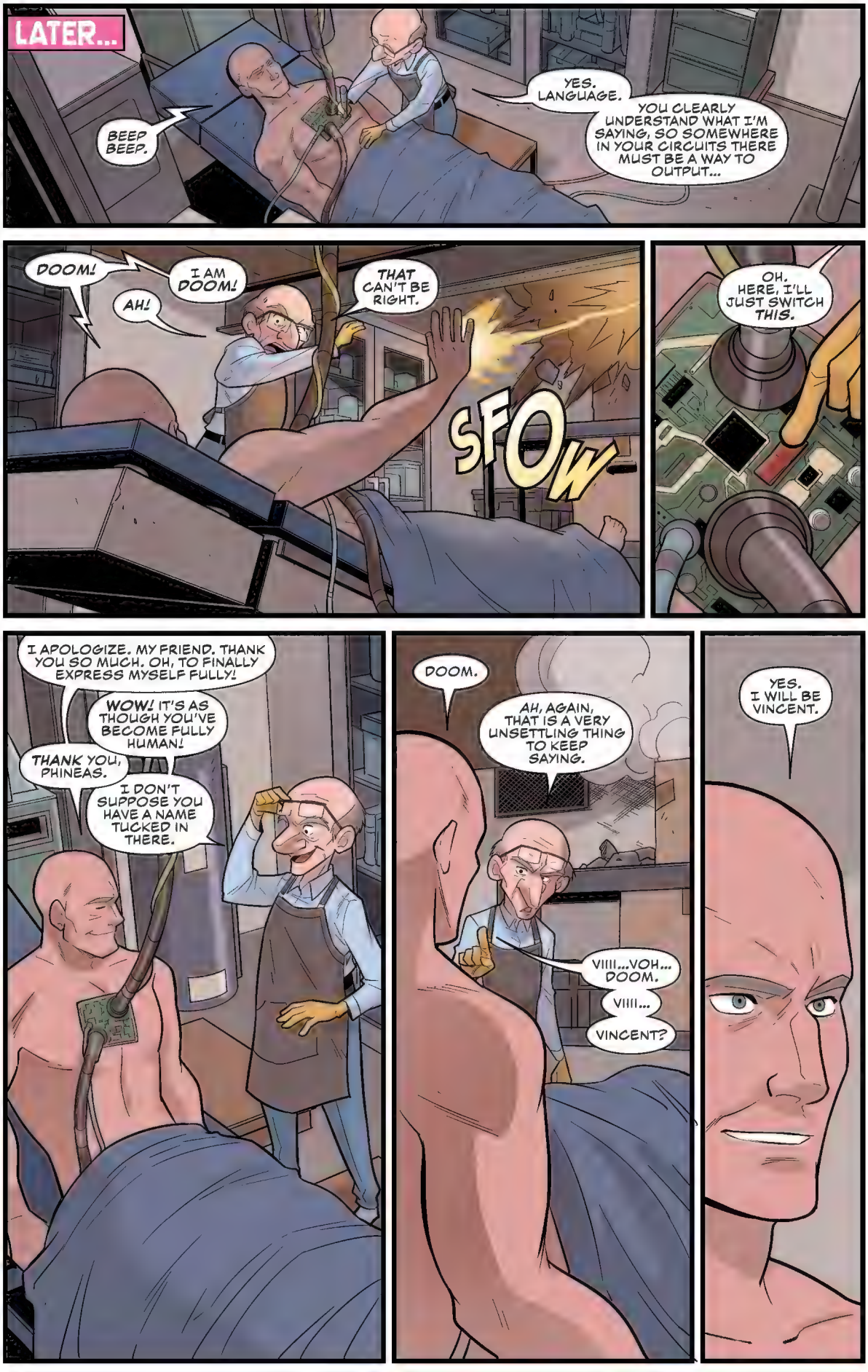

YES! GOOD! YOU ARE SAFE.
MY GOODNESS, IN THE LIGHT YOU ARE EVEN MORE UNUSUAL--
BEEP!
I'M SORRY, YOU STILL SEEMED FRIGHTENED.
WHO WOULD PROGRAM A MACHINE TO UNDERSTAND FEAR... WHAT POSSIBLE GOOD COULD COME OF THAT?

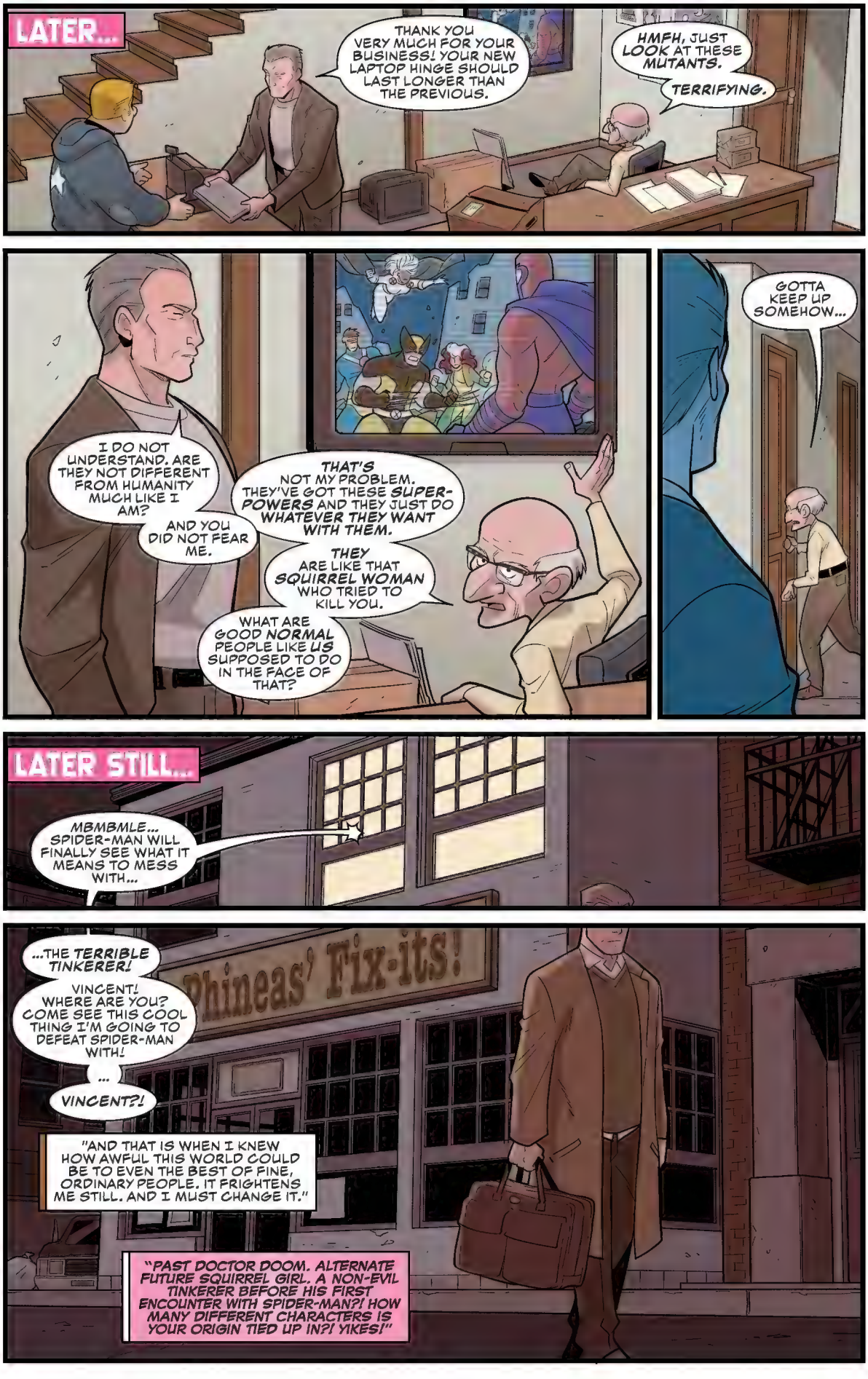
AS TIME WENT ON...




AH, IT IS GOOD YOU HAVE BECOME LESS FRIGHTENED OF PEOPLE. WHATEVER EVIL FORCE THREATENED YOU IS GONE. YOU HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR FROM GOOD NORMAL FOLK.
WE JUST HAVE TO DO SOMETHING TO MAKE YOU A LITTLE LESS FRIGHTENING TO THEM.

I'VE BEEN TINKERING WITH A NON-OBTRUSIVE WATERPROOFING AGENT THAT I THOUGHT MIGHT BE USEFUL IN MY ELECTRONICS REPAIRS, BUT--
--WELL, THERE'S NO CUTE SCIENTIFIC WAY TO SAY THIS. IT LOOKS LIKE HUMAN SKIN, AND THAT'S CREEPY TO PUT ON A RADIO.
BUT ON YOU...
SPLORT
BEEP!
WE'LL WORK ON IT.


LATER...
BEEP BEEP.
YES. LANGUAGE.
YOU CLEARLY UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M SAYING, SO SOMEWHERE IN YOUR CIRCUITS THERE MUST BE A WAY TO OUTPUT...
DOOM!
I AM DOOM!
AH!
THAT CAN'T BE RIGHT.
SFOW
OH. HERE, I'LL JUST SWITCH THIS.
I APOLOGIZE. MY FRIEND. THANK YOU SO MUCH. OH, TO FINALLY EXPRESS MYSELF FULLY!
WOW! IT'S AS THOUGH YOU'VE BECOME FULLY HUMAN!
THANK YOU, PHINEAS.
I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU HAVE A NAME TUCKED IN THERE.
DOOM.
AH, AGAIN, THAT IS A VERY UNSETTLING THING TO KEEP SAYING.
VIIII...VOH... DOOM.
VIIII...
VINCENT?
YES. I WILL BE VINCENT.

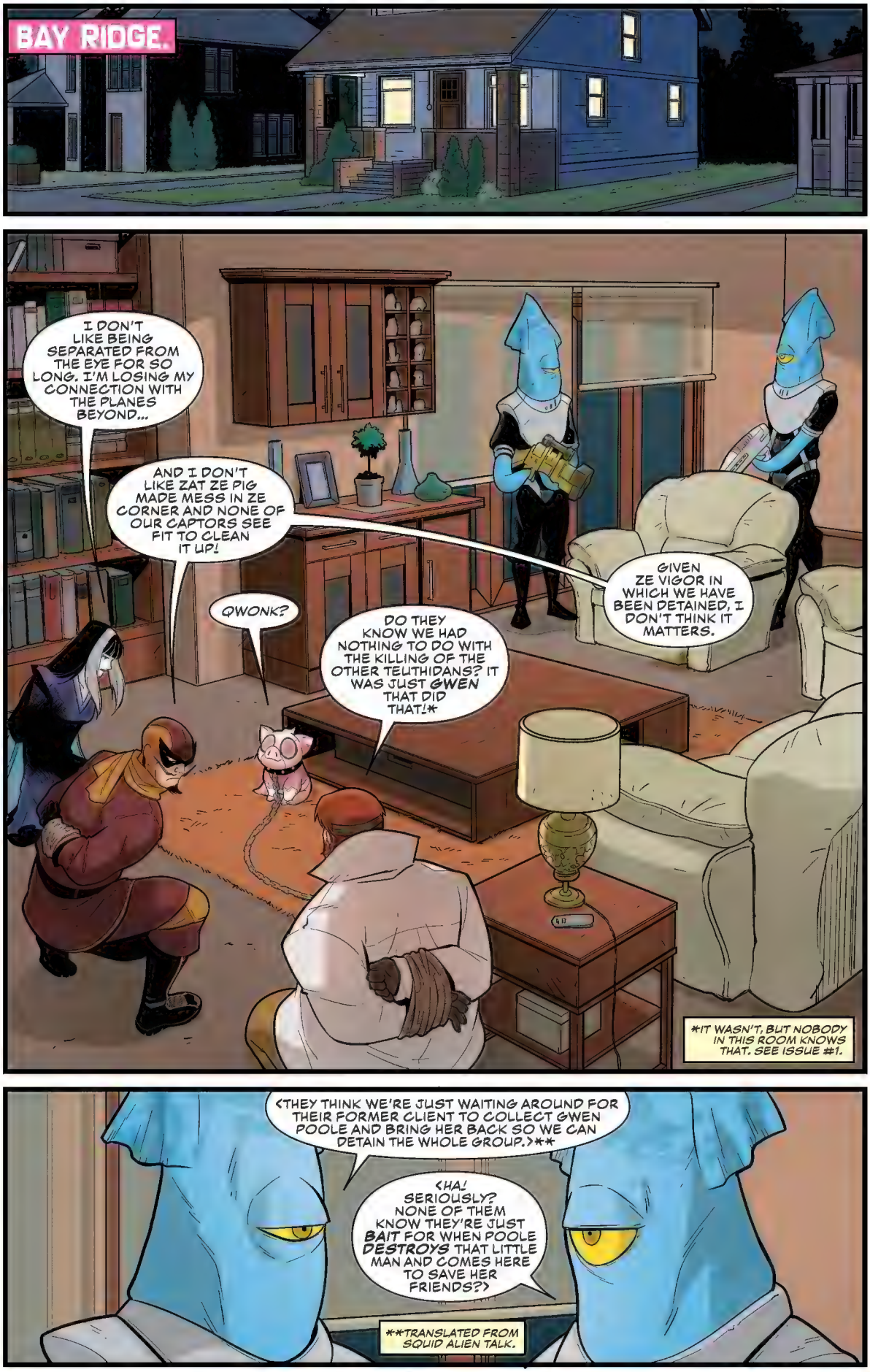

LATER...
THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR BUSINESS! YOUR NEW LAPTOP HINGE SHOULD LAST LONGER THAN THE PREVIOUS.
HMFH, JUST LOOK AT THESE MUTANTS.
TERRIFYING.
I DO NOT UNDERSTAND. ARE THEY NOT DIFFERENT FROM HUMANITY MUCH LIKE I AM?
AND YOU DID NOT FEAR ME.
THAT'S NOT MY PROBLEM. THEY'VE GOT THESE SUPER-POWERS AND THEY JUST DO WHATEVER THEY WANT WITH THEM.
THEY ARE LIKE THAT SQUIRREL WOMAN WHO TRIED TO KILL YOU.
WHAT ARE GOOD NORMAL PEOPLE LIKE US SUPPOSED TO DO IN THE FACE OF THAT?
GOTTA KEEP UP SOMEHOW...
LATER STILL...
MBMBMLE... SPIDER-MAN WILL FINALLY SEE WHAT IT MEANS TO MESS WITH...
...THE TERRIBLE TINKERER!
VINCENT! WHERE ARE YOU? COME SEE THIS COOL THING I'M GOING TO DEFEAT SPIDER-MAN WITH!
...
VINCENT?!
Phineas' Fix-its!
"AND THAT IS WHEN I KNEW HOW AWFUL THIS WORLD COULD BE TO EVEN THE BEST OF FINE, ORDINARY PEOPLE. IT FRIGHTENS ME STILL. AND I MUST CHANGE IT."
"PAST DOCTOR DOOM. ALTERNATE FUTURE SQUIRREL GIRL. A NON-EVIL TINKERER BEFORE HIS FIRST ENCOUNTER WITH SPIDER-MAN?! HOW MANY DIFFERENT CHARACTERS IS YOUR ORIGIN TIED UP IN?! YIKES!"

TODAY...
DO YOU THINK I LIKE IT?! NO! IT FILLS ME WITH A DEEP LOATHING--
ARE YOU EVEN PAYING ATTENTION?!
HUH?
MOSTLY...
MAXIM

HOW DARE YOU IGNORE VINCENT DOONAN!
BOOM
BLAM BLAM
BOOM
OFFICERS IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE! GWEN POOLE IS FIGHTING DOCTOR DOOM ON 43RD STREET!
NO, HE SAID HIS NAME WAS VINNIE DOOM.
CRASH
YEAH... I DON'T THINK IT MATTERS.
FAIR.

I'M NOT IGNORING YOU. I HAD A SECRET BACKUP PLAN! I GOT A LINE TO MY PALS, THE CHAMPIONS, AND I'M CALLING THEM TO MESS YOU UP--
YES, HELLO?
THE MORALES RESIDENCE.
HELLO?
HI. MAY I SPEAK TO MILES, PLEASE?
I'M SORRY, HE'S NOT HOME RIGHT NOW. WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO TAKE A MESSAGE?
THIS PLAN... WAS NOT THOUGHT-OUT...
I DON'T THINK I GOT THAT.
SORRY... BYE...

BOOM
DON'T YOU SEE NOW WHY I HAVE MY PRECIOUS, NORMAL PIECE OF BAY RIDGE, BROOKLYN? I PROTECT IT FROM ALL OF THIS SUPER HERO NONSENSE.
WHICH YOU HAVE THREATENED, EVEN AS I ENGAGED YOU TO PROTECT IT.
I'M JUST TRYING TO STOP THE SAME ALIENS YOU ARE!
BUT YOU TURNED ON ME, SO NOW I HAVE TO GO SAVE MY FRIENDS!
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! ALIENS! MUTANTS! RADIOACTIVE WHOEVER! THEY ARE ALL THE SAME TO ME! DISRUPTERS OF PEACE.
AND IT TURNS OUT YOU ARE FAR WORSE THAN THE TEUTHIDANS, MY DEAR.
THWACK
IN FACT, THEY'RE BEING QUITE RESPECTFUL AND QUIET IN MY HOME RIGHT NOW, KEEPING AN EYE ON YOUR FRIENDS 'TIL I COULD BRING YOU IN.
B-BOOM


BAY RIDGE.
I DON'T LIKE BEING SEPARATED FROM THE EYE FOR SO LONG. I'M LOSING MY CONNECTION WITH THE PLANES BEYOND...
AND I DON'T LIKE ZAT ZE PIG MADE MESS IN ZE CORNER AND NONE OF OUR CAPTORS SEE FIT TO CLEAN IT UP!
QWONK?
DO THEY KNOW WE HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE KILLING OF THE OTHER TEUTHIDANS? IT WAS JUST GWEN THAT DID THAT!*
GIVEN ZE VIGOR IN WHICH WE HAVE BEEN DETAINED, I DON'T THINK IT MATTERS.
*IT WASN'T, BUT NOBODY IN THIS ROOM KNOWS THAT. SEE ISSUE #1.
<THEY THINK WE'RE JUST WAITING AROUND FOR THEIR FORMER CLIENT TO COLLECT GWEN POOLE AND BRING HER BACK SO WE CAN DETAIN THE WHOLE GROUP.>**
<HA! SERIOUSLY? NONE OF THEM KNOW THEY'RE JUST BAIT FOR WHEN POOLE DESTROYS THAT LITTLE MAN AND COMES HERE TO SAVE HER FRIENDS?>
**TRANSLATED FROM SQUID ALIEN TALK.

<DO YOU KNOW WHAT I TOLD THAT MAN?>
<WHAT?>
<I SAID WE WANTED TO PUT ALL OF THEM ON TRIAL ON OUR HOME PLANET!>
<NO!>
<I DID!>
<NO! WE HAVE TO JUST KILL THEM HERE! IF ANY OF US GO BACK TO TEUTHIDA, WE'LL GET ARRESTED. WE'RE CRIMINAL ARMS DEALERS.>
<I KNOW! THAT'S WHY IT'S SO FUNNY!>
BA BA BA BA BA
THAT SEEMS BAD.
BELIEVE IN GWEN, TEAM.
GEORGES...
IT IS ALL WE HAVE, TONY.
SQWONK!

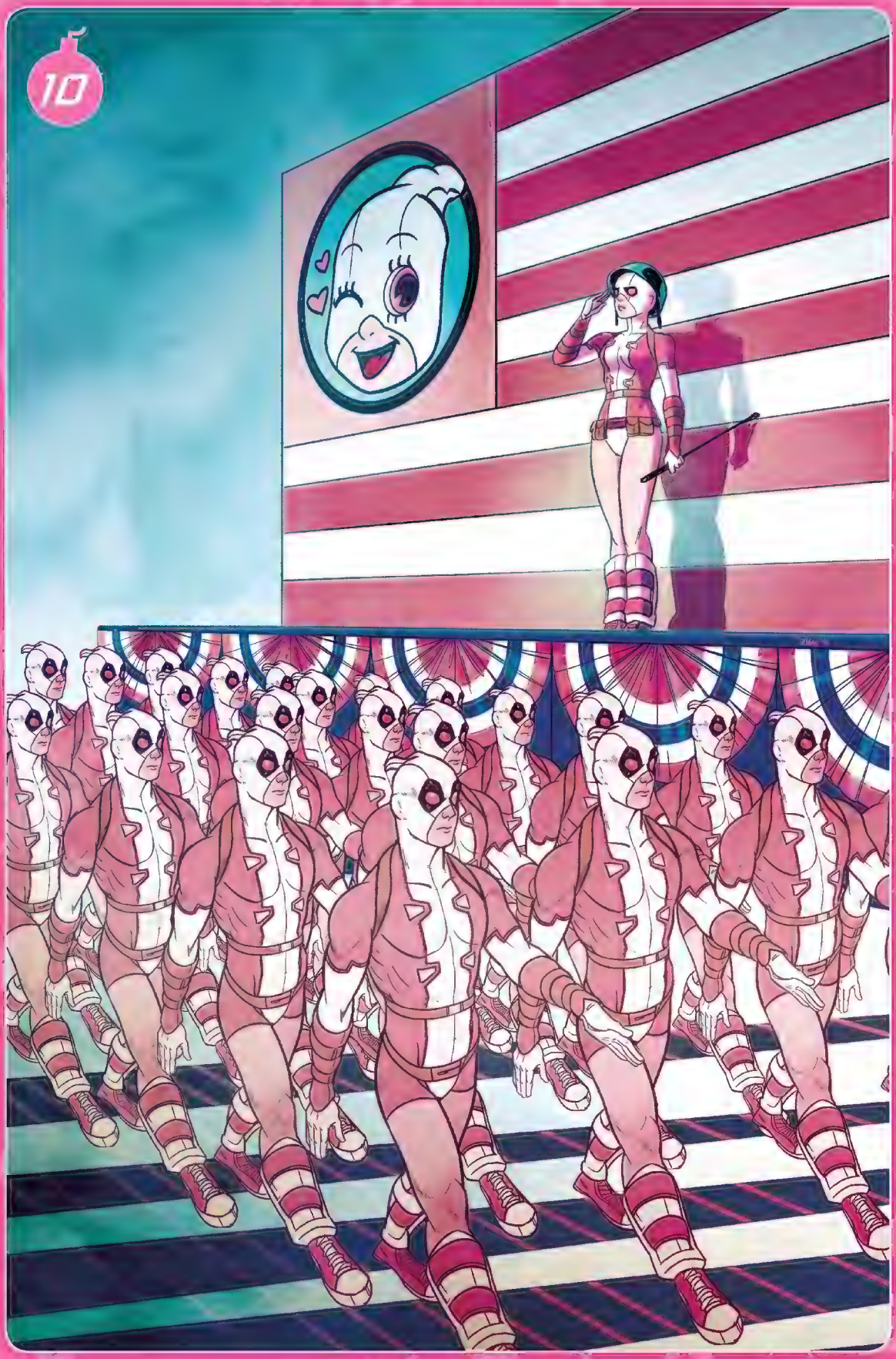
CECIL! HE'S A DOOMBOT! ANY LUCK GHOST-HACKING HIM?
I CAN'T! HE'S GOT MAGIC PROTECTING HIM IN BITS AND PLACES OF HIS HARDWARE!
AAAAGRRGHH! OUT, SPIRIT!
YEAH, I GUESS DOCTOR DOOM WOULD DO THAT TO A ROBOT.
COMICS, MAN.
AHRM.
DON'T MOVE. YOU'RE UNDER ARREST.
WHAT?!
YEAH, GWEN POOLE. YOU'RE SHOOTING UP TIMES SQUARE. YOU'RE WANTED FOR A BUNCH OF OTHER CHARGES. YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!

I HATE DOING THIS! WHERE ARE YOU, GWENPOOL?!
YEAH, SO, THAT'S A DOOMBOT.
MAYBE PRIORITIZE?
EH...
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
IT'S OFFICER GRAY.
GREAT. OFFICER GRAY, YOU ARE NOW NO LONGER AN EXTRA TO ME, AND BY THE LAWS OF THE NARRATIVE THAT DRIVES OUR EXISTENCE IN THIS FICTIONAL WORLD...
...WE WILL MEET AGAIN.
WHA--
AND THEN YOU CAN ARREST ME!
HE'S COMING THIS WAY, LOOK OUT.
HUH?

FREEZE! PUT YOUR... LASER HANDS DOWN!
WE ARE NOT ENEMIES, OFFICER. I'M JUST TRYING TO STOP MS. POOLE.
YOU'RE AN EVIL ROBOT AND YOU'VE TURNED THIS PLACE INTO A WAR ZONE!
AN--AN EVIL ROBOT? NEVER! HOW DA--
WHERE'S POOLE?
WHOA! WHERE'S THAT GUY GOING?
EVERYBODY HAS A DAY THEY DON'T FEEL LIKE ISSUING CITATIONS TO SUPER VILLAINS, BROTHER.
THIS CAR IS MAYBE TOO USEFUL.
STOP FLYING! YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!
OFFICERS, LET'S DE-ESCALATE THIS SITUATION...
I'LL HELP BY COMPLETELY LEAVING IT.
FWOOOOSH
WE REALLY NEED JETPACKS OUT HERE! I KEEP SAYING!

I WAS ABLE TO FIND AND SHORT OUT THE NANOBOTS, ONCE I KNEW TO LOOK FOR THEM. YOU CAN TALK NOW.
OKAY, SO...
I USED UP MOST OF MY AMMO BECAUSE I DID NOT EXPECT TO HAVE TO FACE THE LONG LOST DOOMBOT.
THE SUPER SECRET COOL BACKUP PLAN OF CALLING UP SPIDER-MAN AND HIS FRIENDS DID NOT GO SO HOT.
ALIENS ARE STILL A PROBLEM.
AND DID I MENTION DOOMBOT?
YEAH.
I'D REALLY LIKE TO SAVE OUR PALS, CECIL!
THAT'S GOOD OF YOU.
ANY HINTS?
RECRUIT THE AUTHORITIES?
EH--
NO! CECIL! THAT MEANS I GET IN TROUBLE!
AND HOW EFFECTIVE WILL THEY BE AGAINST THE ALIENS AND NOW THE DOOMBOT, ANYWAY?!
NO. IT'S MY BOOK. IT'S MY PROBLEM.
WAH! WHO IS THAT?!
HM?
WHO ARE YOU?! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?! WHY ARE YOU WEARING THE OUTFIT OF THE GUY I PUSHED IN THE FIRE?!
UH, YOU'RE GWEN POOLE, RIGHT? ONE OF THE TOP AGENTS?
TOP AGENTS?
YEAH, YOU KNOW THE ONES M.O.D.O.K. SENDS ON ALL THE MISSIONS?
WHERE IS M.O.D.O.K., BY THE WAY? OUR LAST PAYCHECK IS LATE, AND JUST BECAUSE HE'S NOT SENDING US OUT DOESN'T MEAN WE'RE OFF PAYROLL.

...SO I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU EXPECT TO FIND HERE...
...WE DON'T GET THE KIND OF ACTION YOU DO...
UH... YOU'RE ABOUT TO.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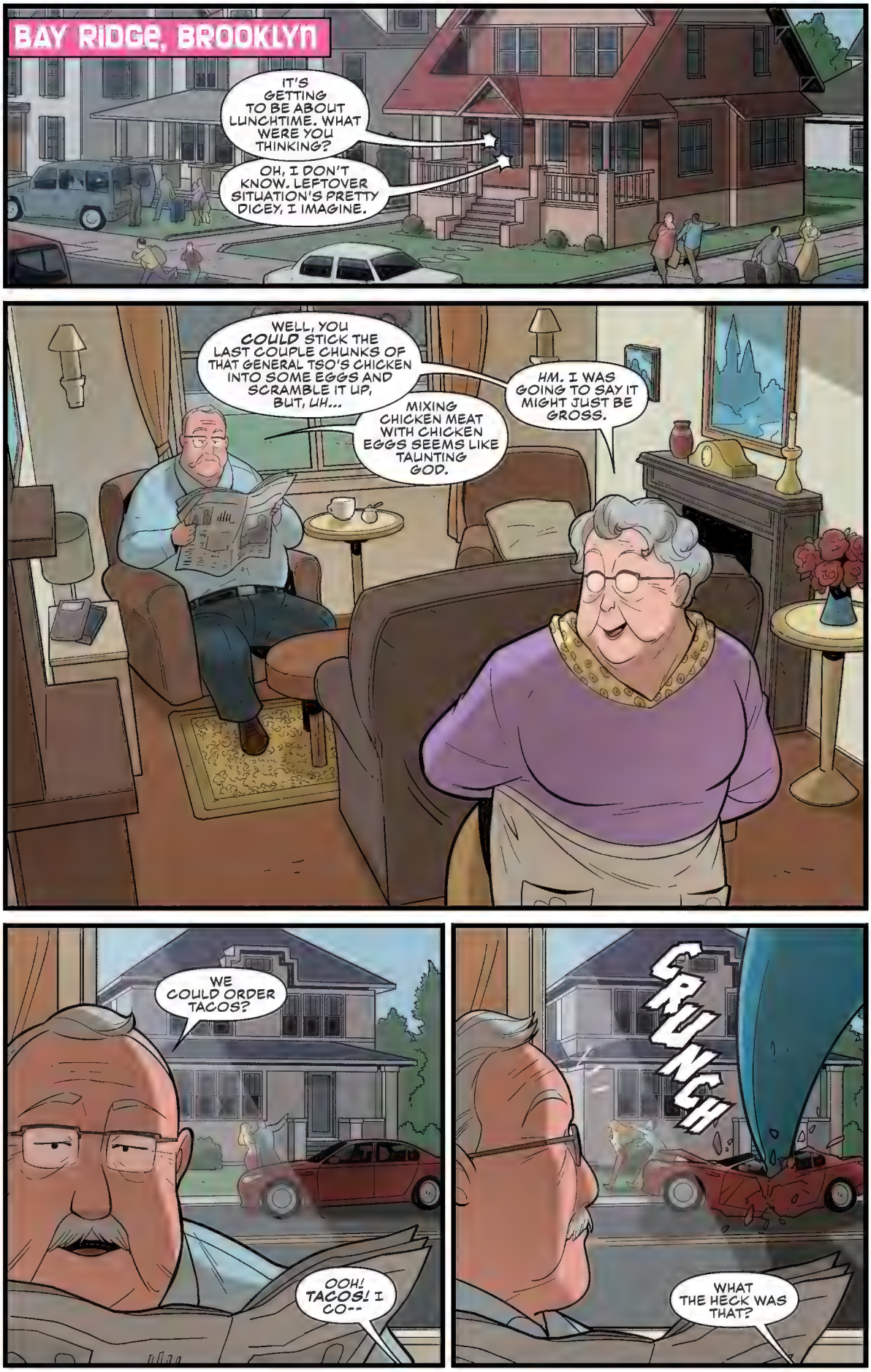

BAY RIDGE, BROOKLYN
IT'S GETTING TO BE ABOUT LUNCHTIME. WHAT WERE YOU THINKING?
OH, I DON'T KNOW. LEFTOVER SITUATION'S PRETTY DICEY, I IMAGINE.
WELL, YOU COULD STICK THE LAST COUPLE CHUNKS OF THAT GENERAL TSO'S CHICKEN INTO SOME EGGS AND SCRAMBLE IT UP, BUT, UH...
MIXING CHICKEN MEAT WITH CHICKEN EGGS SEEMS LIKE TAUNTING GOD.
HM. I WAS GOING TO SAY IT MIGHT JUST BE GROSS.
WE COULD ORDER TACOS?
OOH! TACOS! I CO--
CRUNCH
WHAT THE HECK WAS THAT?

--CAN'T TALK ANY LONGER! I'M HERE NOW, AND I GOTTA SAVE MY BUDDIES!
BYYYEEEEEEE!
GWEN POOLE...

IT SEEMS GWEN HAS ARRIVED TO SAVE US. GOOD LUCK, EVERYONE.
BATROC, I DON'T SEE HOW GWEN CAN POSSIBLY DO BETTER THAN WE DID WHEN WE WERE CAPTURED. SHE'S PILOTING THE SAME MOBILE BASE AGAINST THE SAME ENEMIES.
OH, EXCEPT I DON'T THINK SHE'S EVER DRIVEN IT BEFORE.
I HAVE SEEN STRANGER THINGS, MEGA TONY. THE MORE RECENT OF THEM HAVE BEEN GWEN'S DOING.
HAVE FAITH.
BUT--
OR RESIGN YOURSELVES TO YOUR FINAL MOMENTS. UP TO YOU.
HEY, TEUTHIDANS!
I'M READY FOR THAT CALAMARI NOW!
ACTUALLY, NO, I STILL DON'T WANT TO EAT ANY OF YOU. BLECHS-A-MILLION.
NEED A BETTER TAUNT.
<DE-CLOAK SHIPS. ALSO, WHAT'S CALAMARI?>*
<IT'S A FOOD THEY MAKE FROM THE LITTLE THINGS IN THE OCEAN THAT LOOK LIKE OUR HEADS.>
<OH, SHE WANTS TO EAT US? GROSS.>
<I KNOW.>
*TRANSLATED FROM WHATEVER THE HECK LANGUAGE THEY SPEAK.
AAAHH...
SHIP.

SHIP, SHIP, SHIP.

WHERE'S THE BATTLE MODE?!

HERE!

AH, I CAN'T FIND IT! I'M GONNA GET BLOWN UP ANY SECOND NOW.

GWEN, IT'S HERE!

MAYBE THE BATTLE MODE IS IN ANOTHER COCKPIT!

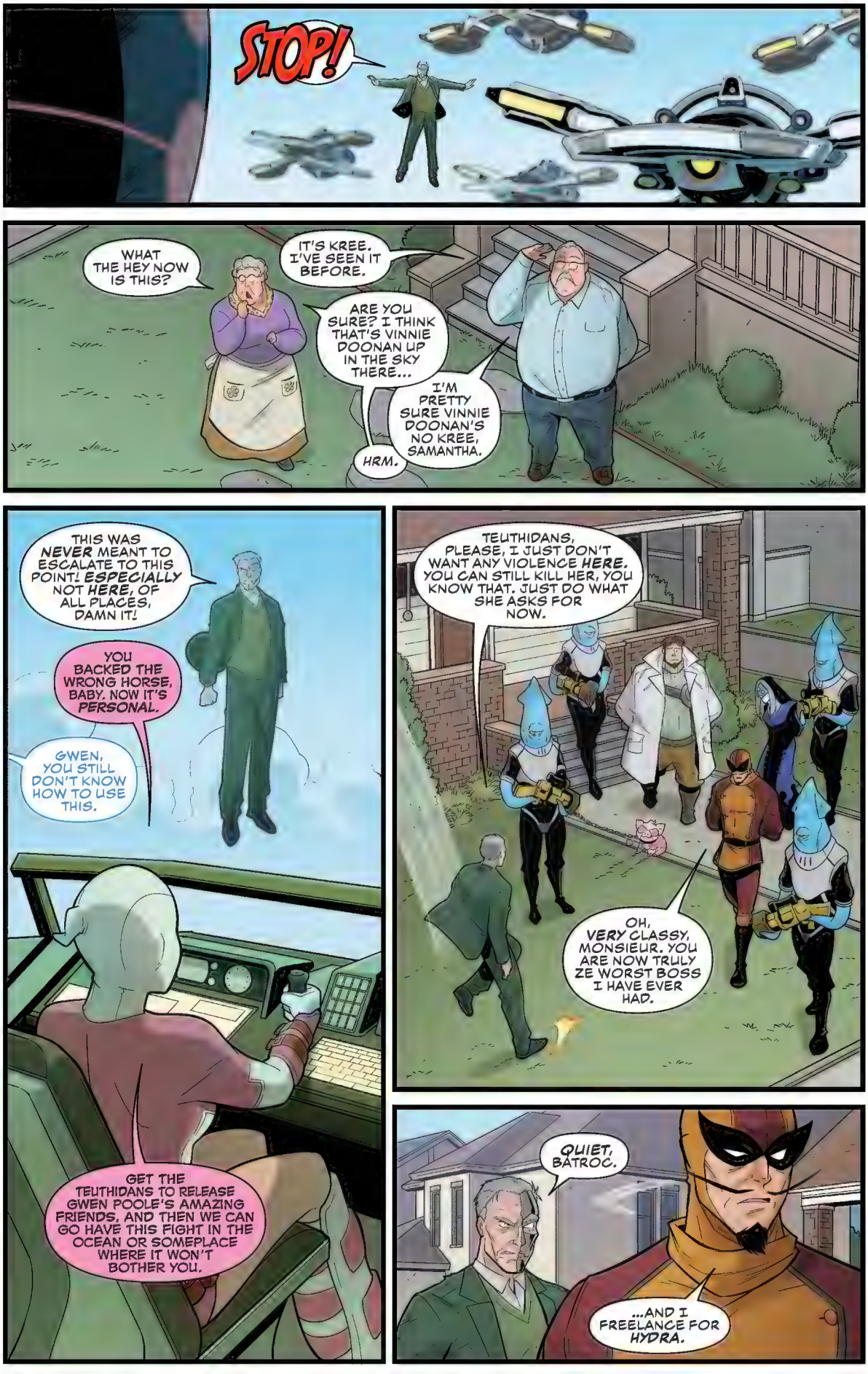
GWEN! I WOULD PUSH THE BUTTON MYSELF IF I COULD BUT I CAN'T, SO JUST LISTEN!

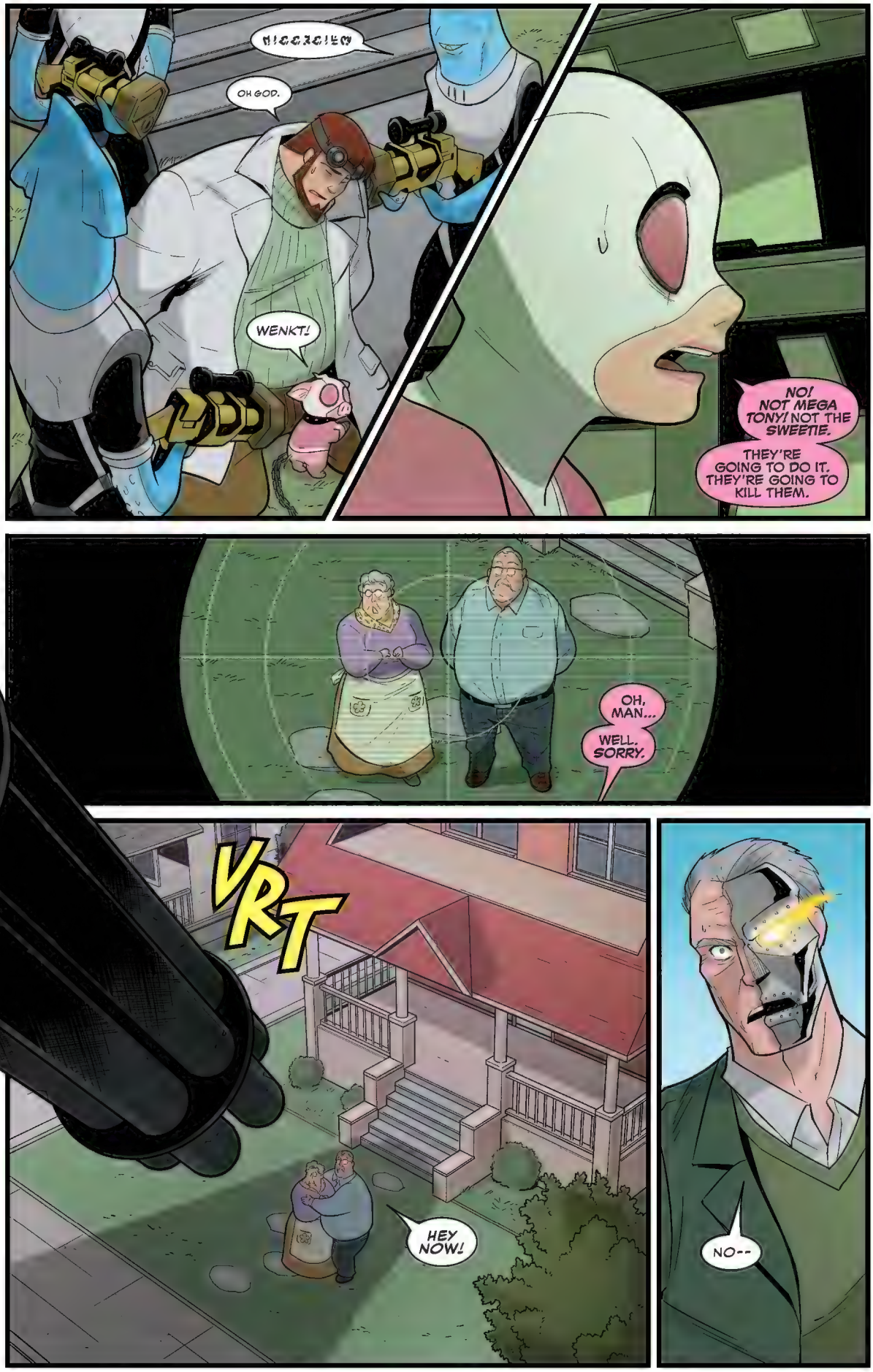
IT'S RIGHT THERE!

...

OH! IT'S RIGHT HERE...

VRRRT
VRRT
CH-
THNK
CHIK
CHIK
CHIK
VEERRRRRYYYY COOOOOL
OKAY!
HA HA HA HA HA!
...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO PUSH AGAIN.


STOP!
WHAT THE HEY NOW IS THIS?
IT'S KREE. I'VE SEEN IT BEFORE.
ARE YOU SURE? I THINK THAT'S VINNIE DOONAN UP IN THE SKY THERE...
I'M PRETTY SURE VINNIE DOONAN'S NO KREE, SAMANTHA.
HRM.
THIS WAS NEVER MEANT TO ESCALATE TO THIS POINT! ESPECIALLY NOT HERE, OF ALL PLACES, DAMN IT!
YOU BACKED THE WRONG HORSE, BABY. NOW IT'S PERSONAL.
GWEN, YOU STILL DON'T KNOW HOW TO USE THIS.
GET THE TEUTHIDANS TO RELEASE GWEN POOLE'S AMAZING FRIENDS, AND THEN WE CAN GO HAVE THIS FIGHT IN THE OCEAN OR SOMEPLACE WHERE IT WON'T BOTHER YOU.
TEUTHIDANS, PLEASE, I JUST DON'T WANT ANY VIOLENCE HERE. YOU CAN STILL KILL HER, YOU KNOW THAT. JUST DO WHAT SHE ASKS FOR NOW.
OH, VERY CLASSY, MONSIEUR. YOU ARE NOW TRULY ZE WORST BOSS I HAVE EVER HAD.
QUIET, BATROC.
...AND I FREELANCE FOR HYDRA.


OH GOD.
WENKT!
NO! NOT MEGA TONY! NOT THE SWEETIE.
THEY'RE GOING TO DO IT. THEY'RE GOING TO KILL THEM.
OH, MAN...
WELL. SORRY.
VRT
HEY NOW!
NO--

YES!
YES, I'LL DO IT!
I DON'T KNOW THESE PEOPLE, VINNIE! AND I LIKE MY FRIENDS!
YOU ORCHESTRATED THIS, MY DUDE, DON'T FORGET!
SO FIX IT, OR I OFF THE BACKGROUND CHARACTERS!
VINCE?
DAMN YOU...
AAAAGGGH!

YES!
ZOW
THE COOPERS' HOUSE!
I'M SORRY TO BREAK INTO YOUR HOUSE BUT IT'S AN EMERGENCY, WHICH YOU CAN PROBABLY TELL BY THIS POINT!

NEIGHBORS?
NO ONE'S HERE...
OKAY, THEN. NO NEED TO GET CRUSHED, MYSELF! GET OUT! CHECK THE OTHER HOUSES!
WOMP WOMP WOMP
VREEEE
CRTNCH
CECIL, WE GOTTA DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE LITTLE GUYS!
THEY'RE ALL TOO CLOSE FOR OUR WEAPONS.
'KAY...
RONNIE, YOU READY DOWN THERE YET?
JUST FINISHED, GWEN. BUT AGAIN, I DO NOT SEE POINT.
BECAUSE THIS MOMENT WON'T WORK IF IT'S JUST GENERIC HENCHMEN.

"RELEASE THE POOLE BOYS."
YOU UNDERSTAND THE CONSEQUENCES OF WHAT YOU HAVE MADE ME DO.
YES.
THERE IS NO PINK FABRIC TO MAKE YOU PANTS FOR FORESEEABLE FUTURE.
IT WAS WORTH IT!
YOW, LOOK AT THE LEGS ON THOSE FELLAS.
OKAY, WELL, IF SOME GOOD LEGS ARE THE MOST INTERESTING THING WE CAN SEE FROM HERE, MAYBE WE HEAD TO THE BASEMENT 'TIL THIS IS OVER, HM?

BLAM BLAM BLAM
HA HA! OH, HAVING A PERSONAL ARMY IS NICE! IT'S REAAAAL NICE!
AWESOME.
OKAY, BACK TO FOCUSING ON THE--
WWMMMMMM
--SHIPS.

EVERYONE'S CARS ARE GONE...
!!
GWEN...
OUR BASE...
WE'VE LOST BALANCE!
OH, GEEZ, THIS IS GOING TO BE A REAL "THE HARDER THEY FALL" SITUATION, ISN'T IT.
STOP QUIPPING AND ABANDON SHIP, GWEN!
ABANDONING QUIPS!
SORRY.
ABANDONING SHIP.

FWOOSH
CREEAAAAAK
HELLO! GET IN, PLEASE!
GWEN!
NO TIME TO NAME YOUR FAVORITE MERC, MY BABIES! GET IN.

HRGHHH.
I--
--AM--
--SORRY IT CAME TO THIS.
<WE WERE FOOLS TO PURSUE GWEN POOLE.>
<YOU ARE A POET, SIR.>
KABOOM

ALL RIGHT, LOOKS LIKE IT'S SAFE TO SEND IN YOUR GUYS NOW.
THANKS, POOLE. I CAN'T SAY THIS OFFICIALLY ON BEHALF OF THE NYPD, BUT...
...I APPRECIATE YOU GIVING US THE OPPORTUNITY TO WARN PEOPLE TO EVACUATE.
BILL, I FOUND YOUR PHONE! LOOKS LIKE YOU HAVE SOME MISSED CALLS.
SIR! WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
WHAT? WHY ARE YOU ASKING?
SIR, YOU JUST SAVED THIS NEIGHBORHOOD FROM AN ALIEN ATTACK!
I--
ARE YOU A CYBORG, SIR?
FROM PART OF YOUR FACE, YOU APPEAR TO BE A DOOMBOT.
NO, PLEASE--

--I JUST WANTED TO KEEP THE PEACE. PLEASE DON'T MAKE THIS ABOUT ME.
HA.
WELL.
GOOD FOR YOU.

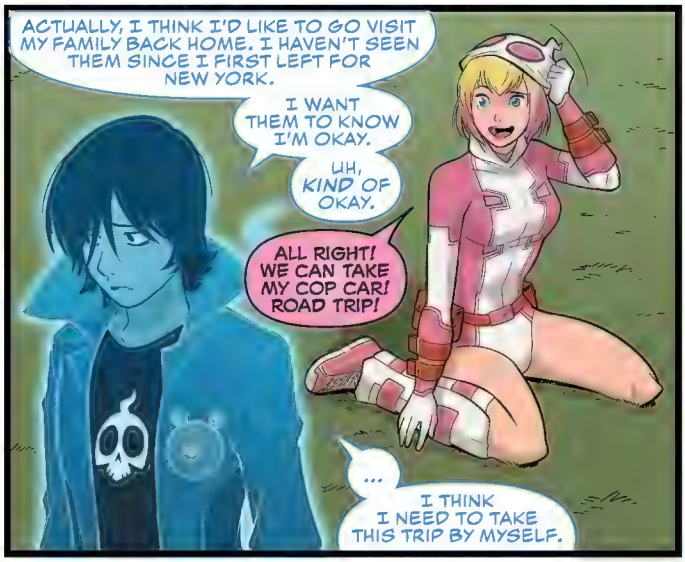
A LOT OF OUR DUDES ARE GETTING ARRESTED. ONCE WE GET A NEW BASE OF OPERATIONS, WE'VE GOT A REAL DIDDLE OF A JAILBREAK ON OUR HANDS.
GWEN.

WHAT?
NO, GWEN. THERE WILL BE NO JAILBREAK.
NO, I THINK I CAN WORK SOMETHING OUT. SEE, ONE OF US CAN GET A MAP OF THE JAIL TATTOOED--

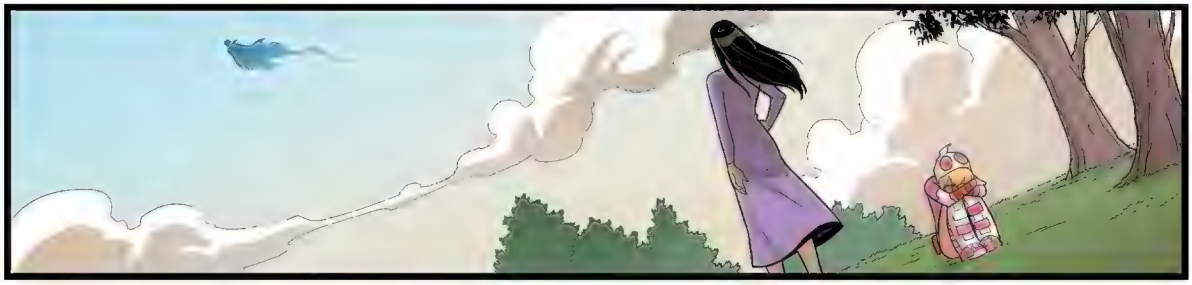
EVERYTHING WAS IN THAT BASE. AND IT'S GONE.
I DO NOT NEED TO CONSULT THE SPIRITS TO KNOW OUR CLIENT WILL NOT HIRE US AGAIN.
UNDER M.O.D.O.K.'S LEADERSHIP, WE WERE PROFITABLE, AND WE DID NOT CREATE UNDUE TROUBLE.
NOW, WE BARELY ESCAPED DEATH, ARE CURRENTLY HUNTED BY THE POLICE...
...AND BROKE.
IT IS TIME TO DISSOLVE.

SCATTER, EVERYONE. LIE LOW. WEAR NORMAL CLOTHES. BIGGER PROBLEMS WILL SOON TROUBLE THE NYPD AND YOU CAN RESUME YOUR LIVES.
BUT-- BUT--
I SAVED YOU!
THE ALIENS ARE ALL DEAD!
I EVEN MADE SURE NO CIVILIANS WERE HURT!
I DID THE RIGHT THING!
YOU DID.
SOMETIMES IT DOESN'T MATTER.
BATROC, NO...
THERE IS NOBODY BETTER AT FIGHTING CAPTAIN AMERICA THAN I.
NOBODY LOSES TO HIM MORE, EITHER.
ADIEU, GWEN.

THE WINDS CALL TO ME!
MAYBE LET'S GET COFFEE SOMETIME.
AH, GEEZ.
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO, CECIL?


ACTUALLY, I THINK I'D LIKE TO GO VISIT MY FAMILY BACK HOME. I HAVEN'T SEEN THEM SINCE I FIRST LEFT FOR NEW YORK.
I WANT THEM TO KNOW I'M OKAY.
UH, KIND OF OKAY.
ALL RIGHT! WE CAN TAKE MY COP CAR! ROAD TRIP!
...
I THINK I NEED TO TAKE THIS TRIP BY MYSELF.

AAAAAAAAH
...
GOT IT.
GWEN--
NO, I GOT IT. SEE YA.
I'LL COME BACK--
OKAY! BYE!



I THINK YOU DID A GOOD JOB, GWEN.
I REMEMBER YOU USED TO DO SO MUCH PROPERTY DAMAGE ON ASSIGNMENT, NOBODY PAID!
YOU CAN STILL GET JOBS FROM RONNIE IF YOU WANT.
GREAT.

BECAUSE I AM IN THE MOOD--
--FOR THE MOST INSANE--
--SELF-DESTRUCTIVE--
--(GET READY TO BLEEP ME, EDITORS)--
--#$@%# STUPID, DANGEROUS--
--JOBS YOU'VE GOT!
WELP...

THE UNBELIEVABLE GWENPOOL #5
MARVEL TSUM TSUM TAKEOVER VARIANT
BY EMANUELA LUPACCHINO & JASON KEITH

THE UNBELIEVABLE GWENPOOL #7 VARIANT
BY CARLY IANNARONE

THE UNBELIEVABLE GWENPOOL #7 TEASER VARIANT
BY MIKE DEODATO JR. & FRANK MARTIN

THE UNBELIEVABLE GWENPOOL #7 M.O.D.O.K. VARIANT
BY MICHAEL WALSH

THE UNBELIEVABLE GWENPOOL #8
DIVIDED WE STAND VARIANT
BY PASQUAL FERRY & FRANK D'ARMATA

THE UNBELIEVABLE GWENPOOL #8 S.T.E.A.M. VARIANT
BY WILL SLINEY & FRANK D'ARMATA

WHAT'S THE BEST PART ABOUT LIVING IN A WORLD OF COMIC-BOOK HEROES?

TEAM-UPS, BABY!

AND IMAGINE THE AWESOME when Gwen Poole meets Miles Morales! Spider-Men and Gwens are a match made in heaven, right? Huh. Maybe not always – this one goes to some dark places! Second best thing about living in the Marvel Universe? The job opportunities! She's only been here a few weeks, and now she's got a shot at running her very own Mercenary Organization Dedicated Only to Killing – M.O.D.O.K.! Talk about getting ahead in business! But Gwenpool may not be up to the task! Still, it's always good to be wanted, right? Except when it's by the NYPD. Or aliens. Her only chance? Do something awful and not care about consequences! Join the Gwenpool army today!

COLLECTING ***THE UNBELIEVABLE GWENPOOL #5-10*** – BY CHRISTOPHER HASTINGS, GURIHIRU, IRENE STRYCHALSKI AND RACHELLE ROSENBERG.